

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, October 29, 1987

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## Arkansas prays for "10,000 in 10 days"

By Eric Miller

MANAUS, Brazil (BP) — Arkansas Baptists are praying for "10,000 professions of faith in 10 days" as they try to evangelize a whole city in Brazil.

"We're trying to do Bold Mission Thrust in Manaus," said Glendon Grober, director of the Brotherhood department of the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

Hundreds of workers are handing out 200,000 New Testaments, visiting door to door, distributing the last of 3.5 million tracts, singing in schools, preaching in churches, and conducting a three-night crusade in a stadium with Brazil's best-known evangelist, Nilson Fanini, who is a Baptist.

When all of this is done, Grober said, "everybody in that city of about 1 million will have had the opportunity to hear the gospel and consider accepting it."

Arkansas Baptists also hope their work will result in the formation of 50 new churches and mission points.

This latest work will mark the completion of a three-year partnership project between Brazil and Arkansas. Arkansas' last group, about 180 Baptists from more than 60 churches, was scheduled to leave Oct. 21 to work in the final crusade in Manaus.

With 5,000 to 10,000 professions of

faith expected, "the follow-up on that kind of thing gets absolutely scary," said Grober, who was a missionary to this area of Brazil for 25 years.

"We don't have 10,000 Christians or Baptists in Manaus to just follow up on that many people making decisions," he said. "We know that we'll not get all of them into our Baptist churches. We'll lose some of them."

Nonetheless, there were 20 Baptist churches in Manaus three years ago, and "we hope we'll end up with 50 churches" when the work is done, he added.

The work is bringing results in Arkansas too. Randy Pegues went to Brazil as a partnership project participant and felt that God wanted him on the mission field. Now he and his wife, Sherry, are Southern Baptist missionaries to Brazil.

A young man went with a partnership team and returned to Brazil as a Southern Baptist journeyman. Others are considering careers in foreign missions, Grober said.

"We have a lot of people come back and share," Grober said. "That's the reason it has gone as well as it has."

"Our people come back much more supportive of the entire Southern Baptist Cooperative Program," he added.

Eric Miller writes for the FMB.



First Baptist Church, Bruce, Mississippi. (Photo by Anne McWilliams)

## FMB appoints grandsons of preacher, missionaries

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — In a blend of past and future, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed the grandsons of "Preacher" Hallock and C.L. Culpepper as missionaries Oct. 13.

Board trustee Eddy Hallock, grandson of the late Oklahoma preacher Edgar F. Hallock of Norman, and his wife, Linda, were named missionaries to Brazil. They are returning to the same region where the young Hallock grew up as an MK (missionary kid) and his parents,

Edgar and Zelma Hallock, worked 45 years before retiring in 1986. The new appointee, pastor of Southview Church, Lincoln, Neb., has represented Kansas-Nebraska on the board since 1981.

"Preacher" Hallock inspired thousands as a speaker at the Falls Creek Baptist assembly in Oklahoma and in week-long devotional clinics in churches throughout the region. He also influenced generations of University of Oklahoma students in his 50 years as pastor of First Church, Nor-

man, and pioneered Baptist Student Union work in his state.

Bill Walker, a third-generation missionary, and his wife, Nancy, were appointed to work in Japan. His parents, William and Mary Walker, have worked there since 1949 but will be retiring next year. His maternal grandfather, C.L. Culpepper, worked 42 years in China and Taiwan.

Catherine Walker, the younger Walker's aunt and an emeritus missionary to Indonesia, recalled that Culpepper had prayed there would always be some of his descendants involved in foreign missions. Culpepper's son, Charles, also was a missionary, serving with his wife, Donal first in China and later in Taiwan.

As the Walkers were appointed along with 52 other new missionaries at First Church, Richmond, Bill Walker said many of his MK years were filled with rebellion against his parents and all authority until "God convicted me of my sin and my need for him." Recently he has been pastor of the Japanese mission of Gambrell Street Church, Fort Worth, where he led the congregation, with the aid of volunteer teams, to construct its own building on the Gambrell property.

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## Youths walk 600 miles to sow the seed in India

NEW YORK N.Y., (ABS) — When young people who love the Lord Jesus Christ respond to a challenge to make his name known, the heart rejoices. In India, there are millions who still wait for that message of hope, the American Bible Society relates.

Because of this, when 50 young people decided to split up into teams for six intensive weeks of Scripture distribution in an area where the Gospel promise is heard all too infre-

quently, there were many who offered up prayers of thanksgiving and wellwishing for them.

These young people have that same deep sense of mission as the 70,000 or so American Bible Society Volunteers of all ages who share the Word in their communities throughout the United States.

The circumstances of their service were a little different, though. First the young enthusiasts had to walk more than 600 miles over high ranges

and the wide Brahmaputra valley just to get to West Bengal and Bihar, almost to the outskirts of Calcutta itself.

But the primitive living conditions, 'foreign' language, unfamiliar climate and strange food only spurred them on.

Some of the seeds they sowed with the Word "fell upon good ground, and brought forth fruit." Many thousands of people, most of whom have never before encountered the Gospel

message, have enrolled in Bible courses as a result. Some have already professed faith in Jesus. Many have asked to meet in fellowship with others who already know the Lord.

Bible co-workers in India look to the American Bible Society for assistance in supplying the Scriptures needed for the task, which are gladly given. Who can refuse young people with such a sense of mission as this?



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## The path of the pendulum

The precipitous fall of the stock market of a few days ago reminds one of the circumstances of Southern Baptists. There were many observers, undoubtedly, who felt that the stock market needed to make an adjustment. More than likely, most people who felt that way would say that the adjustment that was made was more drastic than was necessary.

Southern Baptist conditions are changing just as precipitously. Changes are coming at an accelerating rate. There is no question but that many Southern Baptists have felt the need from some adjustments. The severity and rapidity of the adjustments at this point, however, seem to have become more drastic than anyone should have thought were necessary.

In both instances, it seems that the corrections that have been made were too drastic to remedy the needs that have been felt.

Life seems to be that way. We are always faced with making adjustments. Nothing is ever just right, it seems. The pendulum swings back and forth and always goes too far in each swing. It seems, however, that the swing back and forth, even though always going too far, is the only way that adjustments are ever made.

All of this was brought into sharper focus last week for me as I attended a sort of organizational meeting for

the Southern Baptist Alliance in Mississippi.

I don't set myself up as an authority. I have, however, been watching Southern Baptists for 59 years. That may be longer than anyone else who is involved either in the conflict or observing it. Of course, I was only four years of age 59 years ago, but at that time my father became a preacher. I became an avid Southern Baptist watcher from the time of my earliest remembrance, whether or not the watching was intentional.

So I suppose that I am about as much of an authority as anyone else is. I have been reporting on Southern Baptists for 31 years.

The conditions that were brought into focus at the Alliance meeting could be of benefit to both sides, possibly. The Alliance, however, doesn't claim to be a "side." They claim to eschew all appearances of political activity. Their intent, it was declared, is to provide a haven for those Southern Baptists who have been disenfranchised. And there is no reason to believe that their intent is otherwise.

The plea of those attending the Alliance meeting was that a large group of Southern Baptists who represent their interests have been disenfranchised. Without question, this is true. One must remember, however, that as this present conflict came out into the open in 1979, the cry of the

conservatives was that they had been disenfranchised. And that, again, was true. Had that earlier group not felt disenfranchised, there never would have been conflict, in all likelihood. If the disenfranchisement of the later group were to cease at this time, the conflict would cease with it.

I will have to disagree with at least one viewpoint heard at the Alliance meeting. That is that local church autonomy has been threatened. That is not true. Local church autonomy is still intact. The local church can do whatever it pleases, and no one can tell it to do differently.

The church may pay a price for its autonomy, such as being disfellowshipped from some larger body of believers. But the autonomy is still there. No one can dictate to a church unless the church submits to it.

The major impact that came from the Alliance meeting was the aching sadness that has come over all Southern Baptists. One realizes from watching Southern Baptists of all persuasions that we are not enough different all across the board to warrant having such turmoil. There seems to be no way, however, of bringing the two sides together so that it can be determined that differences are slight if there are any at all. All efforts to do this seem to end in futility.

So the pendulum continues to swing.



## Not Mrs. O'Hair again

With strange regularity, the Federal Communications Commission petition that has been erroneously attributed to Madalyn Murray O'Hair keeps popping up.

It seems to have surfaced again recently.

The petition in question is No. 2493. And there really was such a petition as that. The fact of the matter is that it was presented to the FCC in 1975, and it was denied. And Mrs. O'Hair had nothing to do with it.

The rumor that continues to arise

would have it that Mrs. O'Hair has petitioned the FCC to take all religious broadcasting off the air. That was not the intent of the petition at all. The real petition No. 2493 petitioned the FCC not to license any additional Christian stations. It would have left alone those already in operation.

The petition was presented by two California men. Mrs. O'Hair was not involved. It was denied. The year was 1975. All of the petitions that have surfaced since that date have been bogus ones.

Church Annuity Plan as the official church retirement policy.

The Annuity Board has poured its acquired knowledge and experience about retirement planning into the expanded Church Annuity Plan.

These 69 years of being "at the wheel" on "Retirement River," successfully negotiating the shifting channel of pension fund management, has given the Annuity Board a deep knowledge of retirement planning.

The expanded Church Annuity Plan steers past the potential disasters, helping you arrive safely at your destination — a retirement with enough income for as long as you live.

Your ticket to a secure future starts with your personal commitment to make regular percentage contributions to your retirement income account.

Your commitment leads to:

- \*Matching funds from your church;
- \*Matching funds from your state convention;
- \*Supplemental disability/survivor benefits;
- \*Competitive earnings;
- \*Early retirement options;

- \*Less taxes;
- \*Freedom from dependence upon others;
- \*Financial security;
- \*Peace of mind.

Just two steps up the gangway and you are on the boat bound for retirement success:

— Step 1. Your church votes now to adopt the expanded Church Annuity Plan and an officer of the church signs the Cooperative Agreement.

— Step 2. Return the signed Cooperative Agreement to your state convention. Upon approval by your state convention you will receive — this fall — the expanded Church Annuity Plan forms from the Annuity Board.

The Annuity Board can help guide your church to adopt the expanded Church Annuity Plan. For information about how you can get on board, contact the annuity representative in your Baptist state convention office or call the Board directly. The toll-free number is 1-800-262-0511.

Tom Miller is vice-president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

## Guest opinion . . .

## Keep retirement dreams afloat

By Tom Miller

Pilots who steered the magnificent riverboats up and down the Mississippi had one thing in common: a flawless knowledge of the river. Each pilot acquired his knowledge by spending countless hours listening to and observing other pilots and steering a boat. It paid off. The pilot's knowledge and skill kept his boat in the shifting channel, assuring the passengers of a secure journey.

What the Annuity Board knows can keep Southern Baptist ministers and other church staff from getting snagged on the "river" of retirement. Consider how the Annuity Board's programs can help you avoid these dangers along the way:

— Inflation eats away at your buying power. The only way to keep up with inflation as you build a retirement account is to make regular contributions based on a percentage of your salary. The expanded Church Annuity Plan is based on this principle.

— Emergency expenses can bump you out of the channel and bruise your retirement account. Life, health and disability insurance can rescue you from such emergencies. The Annuity Board knows the needs of Southern Baptists and offers insurance protection to meet those needs.

— Shallow benefits at retirement are the result of too little, too late. The expanded Church Annuity Plan is flexible and can add depth to your retirement benefits by helping you maximize the effects of time and regular, consistent contributions.

— Taxes drain your financial resources. Because of the Annuity Board's tax status, making contributions to the expanded Church Annuity Plan can help put more money in your pocket today and tomorrow.

— Get-rich-quick schemes can rob you. You can put your confidence in the Annuity Board. For 69 years now, the official Southern Baptist pension agency, has been serving those who

serve the Lord.

The Board, established by the denomination in 1918 to provide relief and annuity benefits for retired ministers and widows, has grown to be the world's second-largest church pension agency with more than \$2 billion in assets. The Annuity Board has helped thousands of the Lord's Southern Baptist servants reach retirement with enough income for the rest of their lives.

Southern Baptist churches should thank the Lord for these retired ministers and their widows. Many remain active and effective in ministry, free of worry about financial needs because they made adequate preparation for retirement.

Churches should commit to a retirement policy that will benefit the faithful Baptist servants who are still fully active in ministry. The most effective way for Southern Baptist Churches to help ministers prepare for retirement is to adopt the expanded

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## Convention theme:

# "United in Spirit . . . Intent on Purpose"

By Joy W. Yates

"UNITED IN SPIRIT . . . . . INTENT ON PURPOSE" is the theme set by your Committee on Order of Business for the 1987 Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in Jackson's First Baptist Church, Nov. 9-11. How excited we all are as we anticipate a convention filled with dynamic speakers and glorious music.

Brian Harbour will open each session with a Bible study which will develop the theme, enlarging on a portion of that wonderful verse in Philippians 2:2 (NAS), "Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."

Sermons by Earl Kelly, Frank Gunn, Robert Self, Richard Jackson, and Robert Hamblin will focus on working together as a united fellowship to further the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The committee met with the ministers of music in order that the musical portion of our convention would lend itself to developing a worshipful atmosphere and not just a time to stand up and stretch!

There will be much business to transact, including the election of officers; reports from the various agencies; a budget to adopt; and, of course, "miscellaneous" business. So, let me urge all of you to attend this 152nd session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. It should be a rich time for you as you become an active participant in YOUR state convention.

A special piece of music, written by Music Evangelist Kathryn Barfield of Yazoo City, has been chosen as a theme song for this year's convention. The words reflect what those of us who have prayed and planned and hoped to achieve during these days:

"Together, for His glory, We're together in the Lord . . .  
Walking hand in hand, we'll take our stand, according to His will.  
Together for His glory, we're together for the Lord!"

—Joy W. Yates

Joy (Mrs. James) Yates, is chairman, order of business committee. Other members are Ronnie Massey, Hal Buchanan, Tommy Vinson, Dennis Johnsey, and Ron Burch. Ex officio are Frank Gunn, Roy Myers, and Tommy Tutor.

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, October 29, 1987

Published Since 1877

## Southeastern president, dean set plans to resign

By Larry E. High and R.G. Puckett

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — In a surprise announcement which stunned the faculty, student body and the community, W. Randall Lolley announced his plans to terminate his presidency at Southeastern Seminary, a post he has held for 13 years.

The 56-year-old native of Alabama — who holds two degrees from Southeastern and is the only alumnus to serve as its president — told a tearful and stunned student body Oct. 22 that action taken by seminary trustees the preceding week left him no alternative. Trustees removed all power for selecting new faculty members from the faculty and gave it completely to Lolley and trustees.

"I cannot fan into flame a vision which I believe to be contradictory to the dream which formed Southeastern in 1951 and has nourished me as a student and alumnus of the school," Lolley said at the conclusion of his chapel sermon. "I have reached some conclusions that make it necessary to begin discussing with the appropriate persons the termination of my presidency."

Lolley gave no date when the resignation would be effective. He tentatively has scheduled a Nov. 3 meeting with four members of the trustee board. They are Robert E. Crowley, chairman; James R. DeLoach, vice chairman; Jesse P. Chapman, immediate past chairman; and W. Lee Beaver Jr., chairman immediately before Chapman.

Lolley also revealed he had received a letter from Morris Ashcraft requesting that he be relieved of the role of dean but be permitted to continue on the faculty as professor of theology.

Lolley has no faculty status nor tenure, but Ashcraft has both. In his letter to Lolley, Ashcraft wrote: "The recent actions and stated intentions of the majority of our board of trustees indicate to me that I will not be able to implement their guidelines for the instruction unit of the seminary."

Therefore, I hereby request that you plan for me to relinquish my position as dean of the faculty."

"In these resignations (Lolley and Ashcraft), we suffer two grievous losses," Professor Richard Hester told a crowd of students and friends at the press conference held on the steps of Broyhill Hall, the building where the trustees met the week before.

"We are deeply saddened but not terribly surprised," Hester read from a prepared statement. "President Lolley and Dean Ashcraft have both made it abundantly clear that they will not implement the policies of political fundamentalism now being enacted by a narrow majority of our board of trustees."

"The president and the dean have told us they will not serve as agents of the persons who want to overturn this school's distinguished 37-year tradition of competent, open, responsible theological education. They have told us they refuse to preside over a fundamentalist school," Hester, president of the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors, told several hundred students and media representatives.

With the faculty assembled behind him, Hester said, "We respond to their resignations with grief and a profound sense of loss, but we also respond with affirmation of their values, their in-

tegrity and their courage."

Robert D. Crowley, a pastor in Rockville, Md. — who was elected chairman of the board of trustees, unseating Chapman, who could have served another year — repeatedly has said trustees have no plans to fire any existing faculty members. However, he did indicate all new faculty members will be inerrantists.

Crowley said he was shocked that the president's resignation was "announced so emphatically to the student body."

"The message that sends is that the decision is non-negotiable," Crowley said in a telephone interview with Todd Ackerman of the Raleigh News and Observer. "Our major task now will be to find someone who will be able to assume the leadership Dr. Lolley so effectively provided."

About the search for a new president, Crowley said, "I would be an imbecile if I tried to tell you I didn't have some names going through my mind. I can assure that whoever he is, he will be an inerrantist."

Other trustees also reacted. Chap-  
(Continued on page 5)

## Bold Mission Thrust update

ITEM	1976	1986	2000
Churches	35,073	37,116	50,000
Mission Type Churches	1,800+	5,000+	
Home Missionaries	2,492	3,637	5,000
Foreign Missionaries	2,700	3,756	5,000
Nations	84	110	125
Total Receipts (Churches)	1,645,959,837	4,117,574,240	20B
C P Total	183,189,768	325,436,882	2B
C P State Convention	136,471,299	201,226,582	50/50
C P SBC	46,718,469	124,210,300	75

### 15 Year Planned Growth in Giving Goals

Individual . . . . . grow by some percent annually for 15 years  
Churches . . . . . grow by at least 7.5% over 15 years  
State . . . . . grow to division of C P dollars to 50/50 over 15 years  
SBC . . . . . grow to sharing 75% with Home and Foreign Mission Boards

## Campaign passes 30 million mark

Pledges to the Mississippi Mission as of Monday totaled \$30,038,616.13, bringing the campaign to the three-quarters mark. More on this in next week's edition. (See another story on page 4.)

## Foreign Board appoints four couples with state ties

Four couples with Mississippi ties were appointed missionaries of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in October. They are Frank and Jerry Anne Pevey Jr., Kevin and Susan Randolph, Glenn and Cynthia Graves, and Mark and Karen Ray.

The Peveys will live in Tanzania where he will be working in agricultural development.

Pevey attends New Orleans Seminary. More recently he was livestock specialist on a farm in Skene, which the couple considers their hometown. Born in Hazlehurst, Pevey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pevey of Crystal Springs. He grew up



Ray



Randolph



Pevey



Graves

(Continued on page 5)



# Church deferred giving adds to campaign tally

Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, voted last week to pledge \$200,000 to The Mississippi Mission campaign. Russell Bush, pastor, reported the exciting results to the campaign office Friday.

Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, Tommy Vinson, pastor, increased its church pledge to \$700,000. Deferred giving strategies played a role in both

churches achieving these pledges on behalf of Mississippi's young people.

"God is richly blessing us through the campaign, and we will succeed," said Harry Vickery, general chairman of the campaign, in response to the new pledge results. "We know every Baptist church in Mississippi will want to be a part of this effort that is so important to the young people of our state. We are making a strong statement for quality Christian higher education and child care with the results already in hand," he said.

The primary emphasis now is with the remaining churches in the state as they finalize their church commitment. A campaign organization of more than 1,000 pastors and lay leader volunteers has already made the appeal to the churches. Now, as churches approve their 1988 budgets, church leaders are evaluating the level of commitment their churches will commit to The Mississippi Mission.

Vickery points out that an endowment campaign is different from a bricks and mortar campaign where

immediate cash is needed. Noting that cash is still important, he added, "We hope individuals and churches will investigate innovative ways of giving such as donating appreciated securities, real estate, other personal properties, life insurance, and deferred gifts such as trusts and bequests. These can provide advantages to both the donor and to our valued institutions. Corporate matching gifts can double or triple an individual's gift."

"The campaign is progressing extremely well!" remarked Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "Now is the time when churches will enter the final phase of their 1988 budget planning process. The final chapter has not been written. Only the Lord knows the level of victory we will achieve and celebrate by year's end," he said.

Listed at right are the results of churches recently reporting to the campaign office. The congregational gifts division total pledged to date is \$6,514,766.59 or 41% of the \$16 million church goal.

## BOX SCORES

Association	Church	City	Pledge Amount
ADAMS	Washington	Washington	526
ALCORN	West Corinth	Corinth	1,500
BOLIVAR	First	Boyle	5,000
CHICKASAW	First	Okolona	30,000
CLARKE	Mont Rose	Quitman	163
CLARKE	Souenlovie	Enterprise	2,500
CLAY	First	West Point	15,000
HINDS-MADISON	Alta Woods	Jackson	200,000
HINDS-MADISON	New Haven	Terry	4,000
HINDS-MADISON	Southside	Jackson	10,000
ITAWAMBA	Providence	Tremont	400
JASPER	Fellowship	Enterprise	1,000
LAFAYETTE	First	Oxford	50,000
LAUDERDALE	New Hope	Meridian	227
LEAKE	New Providence	Carthage	3,000
LEAKE	Thomastown	Thomastown	6,000
LEBANON	Main Street	Hattiesburg	200,000
LEBANON	Temple	Hattiesburg	220,000
NEWTON	Bethel	Newton	4,000
NORTHWEST	First	Senatobia	62,500
NORTHWEST	Colonial Hills	Southaven	700,000
PONTOTOC	Macedonia	Pontotoc	2,000
PONTOTOC	West Heights	Pontotoc	10,000
SCOTT	Clifton	Forest	1,250
SCOTT	Steele	Forest	1,500
TIPPAH	Peoples	Ripley	6,000
UNION CO	Jericho	Guntown	5,000
UNION CO	Pleasant Dale	Thaxton	155
UNION COUNTY	Cornerville	Potts Camp	1,800
WARREN	First	Vicksburg	100,000
WEBSTER	Mount Vernon	Eupora	405
WEBSTER	Tomnolen	Eupora	3,600
YALOBUSHA	First	Water Valley	55,000

## Baptist funds safe from stock drop

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — The stock market's record 508-point crash Oct. 19 failed to inflict significant wounds on Southern Baptist Convention investments, fund managers reported in the aftermath of "Black Monday."

"The danger is past; we're still positive about the outlook of the economy through the middle of the next decade," said Hollis Johnson, president of the Southern Baptist Foundation.

"We're investors, not traders or speculators," said Johnson, reflecting an opinion of his colleagues. "We're still long-term oriented. We're not going to lose sight of long-term goals because of a short-term loss."

Assets of the SBC Annuity Board, which manages the pension funds for the denomination's ministers, remain in "excellent condition," AB President Darold H. Morgan reported.

"Every annuitant now receiving benefits will continue to receive benefits exactly according to our contract of settlement," Morgan said.

"There is no danger to these benefits now, and we see none in the future." Annuitants with money invested in the board's Variable Fund, which primarily is composed of common stocks, were most vulnerable to the crash. But Richardson cautioned against panic:

"Paper losses are not necessarily actual losses. Moving money... at a low point is a certain way to lose. It is now too late to make that move."

Over time, these values have always gone up. Annuitants with money in the board's other funds were more secure. "Money contributed to the Fixed Fund or the Short-Term Fund is never invested in stocks," Richardson said. "The Fixed Fund will credit 9.5 percent annual earnings on contributions and accumulations in 1987. The Short-Term Fund pays a variable interest rate dependent on the money market rate."

And the Balanced Fund, with less than half its assets in stocks, "will suffer less paper losses than the Variable Fund," Richardson said. The strong bond market, which "balances" the stocks in this fund, should offset some of the losses incurred by the stocks, he added.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

## Southwestern trustees elect conservative as new chairman

By Mark Wingfield

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustees of Southwestern Seminary unanimously elected a self-described conservative layman as chairman of the school's board Oct. 20.

An overflow crowd of students and faculty attended the opening session of the board's semi-annual meeting in anticipation of controversial proceedings. Onlookers feared Southwestern's meeting would follow the pattern of conflict set by boards of other Southern Baptist Convention agencies in recent weeks.

Instead, the 35 trustees meeting on the seminary's campus here harmoniously approved a response to the SBC Peace Committee, affirmed the seminary faculty, and revised retirement policies. Every vote taken in the plenary sessions passed unanimously.

Trustees elected Ken Lilly, a physician from Fort Smith, Ark., as board chairman, replacing Drew Gunnells, pastor of Spring Hill Church, Mobile. Gunnells had served two terms as chairman and was ineligible for re-election.

Although he is "not a theologian," Lilly said he accepts the report of the Peace Committee as a standard for future faculty hirings. Prospective faculty members should accept the four examples of what "the majority of Southern Baptists believe" given in the report, Lilly said.

Those examples state that Adam and Eve were real people, that the miracles of the Bible are historical events, that biblical books were written by the attributed authors, and that historical narratives in the Bible are accurate.

But such adherence would make

"no difference" in what has been taught at Southwestern and what will be taught, he added.

"This seminary represents the constituency it serves," Lilly said.

"This seminary is well on the conservative side." Trustees also accepted a motion by James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas, that the past chairman and new chairman of the board jointly appoint a trustee committee to determine how to implement the Peace Committee report.

Members of the committee are Jim Bolton, Dallas; Draper; Lewis McDonald, Churchville, Md.; James Coggin, Fort Worth; Wallace Palmer, Leesville, La.; and John McNaughton, Fort Worth. Lilly and Gunnells will be ex officio members. Draper was named chairman.

Bill Grubbs, trustee from Dallas, asked to add to the formal statement

"The Peace Committee came to this campus and found no problems here." At Gunnells' request, Grubbs and Art Sherwood, trustee from Houston, jointly presented a separate statement affirming the faculty, which the board also unanimously accepted.

Grubbs said he wanted to assure faculty members the board would not try to achieve balance through firings. "Our faculty doesn't need to worry about us taking actions that are going to imperil them," he said. "Their jobs are safe and secure."

Trustees also voted to approve the administration's recommendation of eliminating the seminary's policy of mandatory retirement at age 70. Under the new plan, faculty and administrators who are elected by the trustees will face a review process each year after age 65.

Mark Wingfield writes for Southwestern Seminary.

## Cline added to porn meet

Victor B. Cline, clinical psychologist and one of America's leading authorities on the problem related to pornography, has been added to the list of speakers for the conference "Confronting Pornography," according to Paul Jones, executive director of Mississippi Christian Action Commission. "Confronting Pornography" will begin at 7 p.m. on Nov. 3 in the chapel of First Church, Jackson, and re-convene on Wednesday morning at 8:30 in the Sky Room of the Baptist Building at 515 Mississippi Street in Jackson.

Larry Baker, executive director of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Jones will preside at the sessions. "Pornography is a problem which impacts all areas of human life. The conference is design to inform, to inspire, and to involve," said Baker.

Additional information can be secured from the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention by calling 968-3800.

## Frank Stovall leaving MC for Southwestern

Frank D. Stovall III, head of the Department of Music at Mississippi College, has been elected to the music



Stovall

faculty at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Stovall's election marks a homecoming. He previously taught at Southwestern from 1956 to 1984.

Stovall, 57, is known among Southern Baptists as a tenor soloists,

choral conductor, and conference leader. He is interim minister of music at First Church, Canton.

A Clinton native, Stovall is a graduate of Mississippi College in vocal performance. He earned the master of arts in music education from the University of Alabama and the doctor of musical arts in vocal performance from the University of Texas.

He is author of "The Church Soloist's Handbook," from Convention Press.

In addition to performing numerous

oratorio and operatic roles, Stovall was minister of music/youth at First Church Canton, 1951-52; and minister of music at First Church, Bluefield, Va., 1952-56.

Stovall and his wife, Sara, will return to Southwestern in January.

## McNair has heart attack

John McNair, missionary to Uruguay, is reported to have suffered a heart attack on Oct. 15. He has, however, been moved from a hospital to his home. His address is Casilla 14052, Montevideo, Uruguay.



# President Lolley plans to resign

(Continued from page 3)

man, a retired surgeon in Asheville, N.C., said the resignation came as a surprise, but expressed his regrets and called the situation a tragedy.

"I felt it would be very difficult for President Lolley to keep his own sense of what was appropriate and right after the trustees' meeting Oct. 12-14," Chapman said. "Dean Ashcraft is also a man of high principles."

"I am real surprised at this," said William D. Delahoyde, an assistant U.S. attorney from Raleigh, N.C. "This subject did not come up during the board meeting . . . Perhaps this is a function of the thought he had given to his administration between the end of the board meeting and now."

Delahoyde reported Lolley had "said to me in the past that he was willing to work with the board. He realized conservatives need to be included in the board." Delahoyde also said he was surprised Lolley reacted negatively to the recent trustee action concerning faculty selection, because the change "enhanced his authority in that area."

"I was not surprised" at the resignation, said Mark Caldwell, a pastor from Hyattsville, Md. "There is no way Randall Lolley can administer that school under these directives of the present board of trustees. He could not maintain his honor, his integrity — he just could not do it. His announcement that he plans to resign is an act of integrity and honor."

"I'm just bleeding a little bit. I'm a Southeastern graduate myself," said W. Jerry Holcomb, a pastor from Virginia Beach, Va.

He said he was not shocked by the announcement: "I had suspected it in light of the last board meeting. If the deacons I serve with had shown what the trustees showed . . . it would have been fairly obvious that the working conditions would have been very difficult to operate in."

"I was absolutely shocked and flabbergasted," said DeLoach, an associate pastor from Houston. "When we left the campus, there was a spirit of reconciliation and openness

I've always found with Randall Lolley."

Reports that Lolley "could not work with fundamentalist trustees" do not sound like the Lolley he has come to know, DeLoach added. "Something must have happened to make him feel this way," he said.

DeLoach said he is sympathetic with the Southeastern community:

"Randall Lolley is a very popular president, a very popular colleague. I would be greatly disappointed if the students and faculty were not disappointed . . . My spirit grieves with the students. Right now, all they can see is blood and thunder."

He also reiterated the pledge that faculty will not be fired. "Everytime anything has been said about firing, we have tried to squelch that rumor," he said, noting the issue of professors who are inerrantists is "a hiring matter," not a question of dismissing faculty.

The faculty at Southeastern has no plans to resign en masse, Hester reported: "We do not intend to give up our prophetic voice. We do not intend to give up our academic freedom. We do not intend to abandon this school's 37-year tradition of quality theological education. We intend to continue our classes today, tomorrow and the months ahead, fulfilling our responsibility to our students."

"Only occasionally does an opportunity come to join together in proclaiming the truth in the face of a stifling, oppressive and powerful political movement," he said. "The events of the past 11 days have shaped this campus into the clearest and most determined opposition New Right fundamentalism in the Southern Baptist Convention has ever faced. The losses of a great president and a great dean make us all the more determined to continue this fight."

Following Lolley's announcement, students gathered outside to pray, to share testimonies and feelings, read Scripture and sing.

High and Puckett are associate editor and editor, respectively, of the *Biblical Recorder*. Also contributing to this story was Marv Knox, Baptist Press feature editor.



Clint and Jarvis Rose Nichols

## Golden Gate OKs property development

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Residential development of seminary property that could produce \$10 million in endowment was approved by Golden Gate Seminary trustees who also authorized a \$1.4 million building project at the Southern California Center in Brea.

Seminary trustees, meeting on the main campus here, also affirmed their support of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement and will study ways the seminary can fulfill recommendations of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee.

The residential development is part of the seminary's master plan of the 148-acre site and will provide for 24 single-family lots and a 36-unit 4.5-acre condominium site.

Trustees also approved plans to seek a loan for construction of a 20,000-plus square-foot building at the Southern California site in Brea.

Expected occupancy is Sept. 1, 1988, with several compatible tenants providing income enough to make the construction loan payment. The 10-year leases will include a Baptist Book Store on location. The building will accommodate about 300 students.

Trustees have affirmed the Baptist Faith and Message since 1979 but used this trustee meeting to have new trustees sign the document during a chapel service on the campus.

## Brookhaven will be site for Preaching Conference

First Church, Brookhaven, will be the site of a Preaching Conference, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, featuring James



Heflin

workshop on Bible preaching, focusing on preparation and delivery. Included will be practical helps for weekly sermon preparation.

James Barry is a consultant in the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board. James Heflin is professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary and a former pastor of First Church, Greenville. And Paul Powell is pastor of Green Acres Church, Tyler, Tex.

Barry's topics include "The Spiritual Foundations of Preaching," "Communicating the Sermon with Clarity and Power," and Creativity in Preaching and Worship."

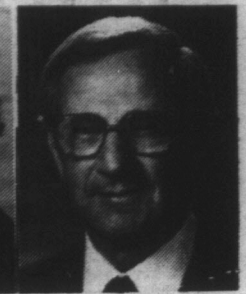
Heflin's topics include "Preaching in the Context of Worship," "Finding the Time for Sermon Preparation," "The Language of the Sermon," and "The Dilemma of Preaching: 'If I Preach Not!'"

Powell's topics include "How I Plan My Preaching Program," "A New Look at Expository Preaching," and "Preaching at the Wednesday Worship Services."

Additionally, there will be



Powell



Barry

workgroup sessions entitled "A Method of Sermon Preparation," "How to Find Good Illustrations," and "A Biblical Model for Worship."

The program begins with registration at 1:15 p.m., Nov. 30 and concludes the next afternoon at 3:20. A \$10 fee will cover the cost of materials and one meal. To participate, write Julius Thompson, director, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, prior to Nov. 25.

### January Bible Study Preview

Malachi

Perry Association, sponsor Good Hope Baptist Church, host Sat. Nov. 14, 1987; 9:30-2:30 Luncheon provided

Dr. J. W. Lee, O.T. Professor, B.B.I. Graceville, Fla., guest teacher Good Hope B.C. is located two miles north of Richton off Hwy. 15.

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## Foreign Board appoints couples

(Continued from page 3)

in Scott. His sister, Mrs. Lillian Prewitt, and her husband, Carl, are Southern Baptist missionaries to the Philippines. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University.

Born in Cleveland, Mrs. Pevey, the former Jerry Anne Howarth, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Howarth Jr., of that city. She is a graduate of Delta State University.

The Peaveys have two children: Bethany Anne, born in 1980; and Ashley Nicole, 1982.

The Randolphs will live in Indonesia where he will be starting and developing churches. He is pastor of Woodglenn Church, Thornton, Colo.

Mrs. Randolph is the former Susan Ratcliff and was born and reared in Gulfport. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. X.L. Ratcliff of that city. Her

home church is Grace Memorial there. She is a graduate of William Carey College and earned a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary. She was a BSU summer missionary in Washington one summer and in Indonesia another.

She has been a counselor and assistant day camp director and a new accounts clerk in Fort Worth, and a clerk typist in Denver. While serving with her husband at Woodglenn Church, she worked part time as a risk management technician at Vicorp Restaurants Inc., Denver.

The Graveses will live in the Dominican Republic where he will be starting and developing churches. A native of Clarksdale, Miss., he is pastor of First Church, Sparta, N.C. Mrs. Graves is the former Cynthia Boyd of Richmond, Va.

The couple have three children: Brian Christopher, born in 1974; Mark Wayland, 1977; and Jennifer Lauren, 1983.

The Rays will work in Asia and the Pacific Southern Asia and Pacific region where he will be starting and developing churches. He is pastor of the English-speaking congregation of Berendo Street Church (Korean) in Los Angeles.

Ray is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Ray, missionaries to South Korea where he was born. He spent part of his youth in Yazoo City. Mrs. Ray, the former Karen Jones, was born in Zimbabwe and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Jones of San Angelo, Tex., who recently retired as missionaries to Zimbabwe.

The Rays have two children: Jared Daniel, born in 1979; and Erin Leigh, 1981.



# Tennessee's Shelby expels church with woman pastor

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The 120-church Shelby Baptist Association here has withdrawn fellowship from Prescott Memorial Church for calling a woman as pastor.

Messengers to the association's annual meeting Oct. 19 approved a motion that Prescott Memorial "not be recognized as an affiliated church" of the association. They contended the church violated New Testament teachings on the role of women in the church when it elected Nancy Hastings Sehested as pastor this summer.

An estimated 75 percent of about 360 registered messengers to the annual meeting approved the measure, reported association Moderator John Bedford.

Questions of the church's doctrinal soundness were raised in an executive board meeting of the association three weeks earlier when members discussed the selection of Sehested, formerly an associate pastor of a Oakhurst Church in Decatur, Ga., as pastor. The association's credentials committee was asked to investigate and report during the annual meeting.

In a closed session excluding all but participating messengers, the credentials committee reported its findings. While the calling of a woman pastor was "an irregularity that may threaten fellowship of the association, the credentials committee recognizes the autonomy of the local church body," said Ken Story, committee chairman and pastor of Germantown Church.

"Each church has a right to act as it pleases," he said. "However, the association is also autonomous and free to choose which churches will be in its fellowship."

The committee reported on a meeting with members of Prescott Memorial, moved that no action be taken, and suggested the term "doctrinal soundness" was sufficiently vague as to warrant a delay to adopt guidelines before any action was considered.

The credentials committee's motion was defeated. In a counter motion, Patrick Stewart, pastor of Covington Pike Church, moved that Prescott Memorial no longer be recognized as an affiliate church of the association.

"It is the responsibility of the association to refuse to recognize messengers from any church which persists in practices contrary to the purpose statements of this association," Stewart said. Quoting from association bylaws he continued: "Knowing that Prescott would be involved in missions endeavors, I could not work hand-in-hand with them in establishing mission churches with women as their pastors. Therefore that is divergent of the purpose and the statements of this association."

During the debate that followed, Prescott Memorial member Tom Walsh read a prepared statement from the church. In said in part: "We made our decision after months of careful deliberation, accompanied by prayer and the study of scripture. We are absolutely convinced that God has led Nancy Sehested to us, and we rejoice that she has accepted our call."

"We did not call Rev. Sehested because she is a woman, or in spite of that fact. We called her because she is a richly gifted child of God who is willing to share her gifts with us."

When a messenger called for the vote and discussion was closed, Sehested and another messenger

were left standing at microphones.

"Since I am at the center of this," Sehested said, "I would like the opportunity to speak."

Amidst cries of, "Too late, too late," Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church and Southern Baptist Convention president, appealed to messengers that Sehested be extended the courtesy of speaking.

While asking the messengers to show courtesy by relaxing the rules, Rogers said he planned to vote to withdraw fellowship when Sehested finished speaking.

"Unless you override me, I am going to suspend parliamentary process and do this," Bedford said.

Sehested stated her authority to preach comes "by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, who did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, becoming a servant. Following in his footsteps . . . I found a towel with my name on it."

"And who was it that taught me this wonderful freedom of the spirit? . . . My Southern Baptist church, who said God calls each of you, and with God everything is possible — except to be able to stand behind a pulpit. . . . women can't do that."

"They never said that," Sehested contended the autonomy of the local church or association was not the question, but whether the Holy Spirit has the right to work in people's lives.

"While we are in this place debating about who can and cannot stand behind a piece of wood; there's a world out there. And the cries of that world are growing louder. There's a world that is desperately in need of all of us," she added.



Marion Fosberg of Surgery bids farewell to MBMC associate director Mike Wilkinson at a hospitalwide retirement reception in his honor. Wilkinson is accompanied by Berneda Wilkinson, his wife.

## Med Center associate director is retiring after 32 years

Michael C. Wilkinson, associate director of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, is retiring Dec. 1, after 32 years of dedicated service to the hospital. Wilkinson began working at MBMC in April 1955 as an accountant. A year later he was made business manager, and in 1961, Wilkinson was promoted to administrative finance officer. After six years he was promoted to administrative assistant, later to assistant administrator, and finally, in 1976, to associate director and in-house legal counsel.

He has served as the hospital's chief financial officer during the period of

the medical center's strong financial and physical growth during which time an entire new hospital facility was built. The building was completed in 1976 and the hospital experienced a dramatic jump from 320 beds to 600 beds. Since then the medical staff has grown from 188 to 441 and the personnel has increased from 524 to 2,200.

## Baptist statesman, Alton Reed, dies

DALLAS (BP) — Alton Reed, president emeritus of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board and former pastor of Park Cities Church here, died Oct. 16 following heart surgery. He was 81.

Under Reed's 17-year tenure as president of the now \$2.1 billion denominational pension board from 1955-72, the agency began employing money managers to invest retirement funds for competitive returns. Darold Morgan, who succeeded Reed at the Annuity Board, said the board's adoption of this philosophy of "manager of managers" has proven to be a vital link in the Annuity Board's stability and growth.

## Wm. H. Preston, student leader, dies at age 91

NASHVILLE (BP) — William Hall Preston, a pioneer in Southern Baptist student ministry who was instrumental in developing the Baptist Student Union student summer missions program, died Oct. 20 in Houston of cancer. He was 91.

Preston retired in 1964 after 37 years as an associate secretary of the student department (now the national student ministry department) of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

## State groups meet, represent both sides of political spectrum

By Tim Nicholas

Two groups of Mississippi Baptists have met recently, representing both sides of the political spectrum with each group claiming not to be political in nature.

Last week a group met at Northminster Church in Jackson to discuss organizing a state chapter of the Southern Baptist Alliance, which is primarily peopled by moderates. About a week before, a group of pastors representing the conservative viewpoint met over lunch to discuss convention activities.

Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, who met with the group of about eight pastors, said some people at the Hinds-Madison Pastors' Conference suggested the meeting was political in nature. Harris told the Baptist Record, there was no agenda for the meeting, although he said there was some mention "about what we could do." He said that some suggested getting out a paper or writing a letter to encourage conservatives to attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention. However, he said, "Nobody came with

an agenda that I know of about what we were going to do or what we were not going to do."

He added that the meeting was not to try to "undermine the establishment . . . I can promise you there was nothing concluded. There was no decision made and there was no plan for any further meeting."

Harris, who is president of the MBC Pastors' Conference which meets just prior to the Convention in November, said he is concerned that "maybe people perceive the Pastors' Conference as being slanted and conservative. I don't want that to become a political platform under my administration."

The organizational meeting of the Mississippi Southern Baptist Alliance included talks by John Thomason, Northminster pastor, and Tom Sims, a layman from Richton. Both indicated that the organization does not exist to attempt to place people in convention office or for electioneering. Thomason said the group exists to be a fellowship "where disenfranchised Southern Baptists can be in contact with one another." He said it also ex-

ists to "say something about what we believe to be the essentials of the Baptist heritage . . . and support some of the organizations being threatened." He listed the recent threats of withdrawal of Baptist Joint Committee funds, the Bork endorsement by the Public Affairs Committee, and the attempt to ouster Larry Baker of the Christian Life Commission.

Said Sims, "If the laypeople knew what's going on they'd make the preachers straighten out the convention."

The group, numbering about 60, concluded its meeting by naming a seven-person steering committee for Mississippi. Included were Thomason and Sims, who are on the national steering committee, and Tea Pearson of University Church, Hattiesburg; Judy Ann Fortenberry Anderson of First Church, Jackson; Raymon Leake of First Church, Picayune; Jerry Vardaman of First Church, Starkville; Jan Purvis of Northminster; and Linda McComb of Northside Church, Clinton.

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Robert A. Baker, author of *The Southern Baptist Convention and Its People, 1607-1972*, resides in Fort Worth, Texas. Daniel Vestal is pastor of First Baptist Church, Midland, Texas.

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## Check goes to scholarship fund

Harold Fisher (left), president of Blue Mountain College, receives a check from Clayton Littlejohn, pastor of Hamilton Church, Falkner. The check is from offerings taken during a recent pastors' Bible conference at the church. The offerings will be used for the Travis Scholarship Fund at BMC and given to church related vocation students. The fund is named for James Travis (right) who is professor of Bible at BMC. Ministers participating in the conference, all BMC graduates, were Bob Orgeron of Martin Church, New Albany; Rickey Blythe of New Hope, Tupelo; Jack Bennett of First Church, Ripley; Dwight Faulkenberry of Pleasant Ridge Church, New Albany; Randy Hope of Keownville Church, New Albany; and Travis Littlejohn, his wife, Teresa, are BMC students.

## Southern trustees retreat to build relationships

By David Wilkinson

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Blending business with pleasure, trustees of Southern Seminary followed a meeting of their executive committee Oct. 12 with a day-and-a-half retreat aimed at building relationships among trustees and between trustees and faculty.

In a two-hour business session, the trustee executive committee approved without dissent a series of recommendations from the trustee financial board.

The committee authorized:

- Purchase or lease of new vans for the seminary's Bold Mission Thrust ministry which sends students to churches in Michigan and Ohio.

- A one-time salary bonus equal to the dollar value of one step on the seminary's salary scale for all regular full-time and part-time faculty and regular full-time staff members.

- A \$65,000 increase in the seminary operating budget for the current fiscal year, taking funds from plant facilities reserves.

Following the meeting, trustees joined seminary faculty members for a three-hour steamboat cruise on the Ohio River. The next day's agenda included a session led by Nashville attorney James P. Guenther on the role of trustees, attendance at a worship service as part of the seminary's week-long campus revival, a picnic lunch with students from the trustees' respective states, and a panel-led discussion among trustees focusing on possibilities for the seminary by the year 2000.

A total of 42 of the board's 63 trustees participated in the retreat. Trustee chairman Perry F. Webb Jr., pastor of First Church, Baton Rouge, La., said that "Trustees come from all sections of the country and we're together only a brief period of time,"

Webb noted. "Most of that time is spent in meeting our obligation in caring for the business affairs of the seminary. The two retreats have served as a bridge from the heavy schedule of business into a more relaxed atmosphere of fellowship."

Trustees, he said "have been drawn close to one another, which makes it easier when we face difficult decisions where there is honest division among us."

Trustee Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Church, Memphis, echoed Webb's assessment of the retreat's value. "If all you do is relate on issues and you disagree, then you sometimes transfer your feelings to persons rather than issues," he said. The retreat "enabled us to step aside from the pressures of making decisions to get to know each other and to build a foundation of trust."

Guenther, who serves as legal counsel to the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee, encouraged trustees not only to represent the opinions of Southern Baptists but also to resist "pack thinking" that leads to poor decisions.

"I have discovered that sometimes a trustee will do things that otherwise — as an individual — he would not ordinarily do," Guenther said.

"God's will, in my judgment, is not found by a show of hands. Be statesmen; don't simply 'go with the flow.'"

David Wilkinson writes for Southern Seminary.

O, how bitter a thing it is to look into happiness through another man's eyes! — Shakespeare, As You Like It, V, 2

A friend in need is not a friend; he is merely a borrower. — Arthur Schopenhauer

# Faculty will not sign BFM, professor says

By Larry E. High and R.G. Puckett

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — The faculty of Southeastern Seminary will not sign the Baptist Faith and Message statement if instructed to do so by seminary trustees, according to Professor Richard Hester.

"Our faculty is united in standing by the current established documents of this school. We won't sign it," Hester, president of the seminary's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, said in a news conference following the fall trustee meeting Oct. 14 in Wake Forest, N.C.

"We have already signed the Articles of Faith, which is part of the seminary charter. That's part of our contract, and that's what we understood when we came here. Those are the terms under which we have taught since we came, each one of us, and those are the terms that we intend to teach under."

It (signing the Baptist Faith and Message) would be a violation of the contract under which we began to teach here," Hester claimed.

"The chances are very good" that AAUP would become involved if faculty were asked to sign such a statement, he said.

"I want to reflect with you on the images that come to my mind as I

think about the last three days on this campus. Who can ever forget the rally where a thousand people gathered in the Alumni Chapel to say, 'We want to sustain the 37-year tradition of powerful, free theological education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary?'"

"Who could forget the image of a courageous president who has stood tall throughout this entire meeting and spoken the truth again and again?"

"Who will forget the courage of this faculty that has stood together solidly, every single one, saying we stand for the most responsible course and that is to maintain and protect academic freedom at all cost?"

"Who can forget the courage of a new generation of young people — seminary students — who have sent this week a powerful message to Southern Baptists that there is on the way to you a new breed of people, a new breed of ministers, who are never, never going to give up the fight for the truth and for openness and for multiplicity of a point of view? Who can forget that — a group of seminary people who have not learned the meaning of giving up?"

"Who can forget the press who has been on this campus every day, all

day, making sure the shades are pulled up and the work of the fundamentalists is done under the careful scrutiny of the public eye?"

"From this point forward, it will become increasingly difficult for the present leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention to do their work in the dark, and I think the press is going to make this so."

"Who can forget that people have stood together? Nobody broke ranks, nobody gave in, nobody compromised, everyone was united, and we have a president who can sing bass."

"When you look back, the images are unforgettable. They are images of courage, they are images of strength, they are images of determination and they are images of a group of people who are saying, 'No matter what happens here in the terms of the structures of this school, we have a mission. We know what theological education is really about, and we are going to keep doing it and, we're going to keep telling our story.'"

Hester also said the ideological New Right is able to ingraft itself on a theological school in order to propagate its particular view: "I think that is what is happening here. You saw it happen here this week."

## Southeastern students back faculty

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — A sign hung from dormitory windows at Southeastern Seminary declared in foot-high letters: "Welcome trustees. We love our faculty."

Bedsheet banners and yellow ribbons of solidarity symbolized student support for faculty when trustees convened their fall meeting on the Southern Baptist Convention-related school's campus here Oct. 12-14.

Prior to the meeting, rumors circulated that President W. Randall Lolley or Dean Morris Ashcraft or some faculty members might be fired. Some Southern Baptists have charged the faculty with liberal teaching. And with the balance of trustees tilted in the conservatives' favor for the first time this fall, some faculty supporters feared reprisals.

In that context, students and alumni rallied to support Southeastern faculty and administrators.

During the opening session of the trustee meeting, Student Council President Beverly Hardgrove presented a resolution supporting the faculty that was signed by 411 students, or about half the campus population. It says in part, "We have experienced our professors and administrators to be persons of deep Christian commitment; dedicated, responsible, biblically based scholars; and persons of high integrity."

Speaking personally, Hardgrove told trustees: "In all of my classes, I have been presented with a variety of theological interpretations and theories. . . . In no area of theological education . . . have I been forced to accept or ridiculed in any manner for

holding a belief opposite or in contrast to my instructor. Rather, my questions and those of other students have been accepted and answered in an honest, open and theologically grounded response."

Following Hardgrove's presentation, trustee William D. Delahoyde, an assistant U.S. attorney from Raleigh, N.C., moved to express "thanks and appreciation" for the Student Council, especially the council's pledge of prayer for trustees.

Later that evening, about 1,000 alumni, students and local laypeople gathered in the seminary chapel for a rally in support of the school.

Atlanta pastor William L. Self, an 1957 Southeastern graduate, spoke to the rumors of firings: "If the trustees of this institution touch one professor, one administrator, one dean or the president, you can have my degree back any day. I invite every alumnus to join me. We ought to put 1,000 degrees back into this institution if they touch one professor or one administrator."

Self noted he spoke with emotion when he discussed his alma mater. He described how Southeastern professors deepened his Christian faith and strengthened his love for the church.

William J. Furr, pastor of Trinity Church, Raleigh and chairman of the committee that organized the rally, said the group did not expect the rally to "have a great impact on the trustees."

"Hopefully, it says to the faculty and staff, who are under a lot of stress worrying about this meeting, that

there is a lot of support for them," he said. "Hopefully, it will inspire the trustees to realize there is a great tradition here and they should tamper with it only with caution."

Throughout the trustee sessions, students crowded meeting halls to view the proceedings. Most wore yellow ribbons to symbolize their support for faculty. A minority wore red ribbons, indicating they feel some professors are liberal.

During a discussion of a closed-door executive session between trustees and Lolley, trustee Walter R. Lonis, a retired policeman from Morrison, Colo., noted the "atmosphere on campus" and especially a "spirit of intimidation" had not been conducive to business.

"I don't want boos and hollering and screaming," he said. Students twice had been quieted by trustees for clapping and cheering during the meeting.

Lolley said the problem was not one of intimidation but of communication. "The trust level on this campus is zilch," he said. "The reason is there are people on this campus who don't trust you, and you don't trust them."

That lack of trust was evident shortly following the meeting, when a small group of students burned a copy of the SBC Peace Committee report, approved at the SBC annual meeting this summer, which they indicated they believe will be used to purge the faculty.

(Contributors to this story were R.G. Puckett and Larry E. High of the Biblical Recorder, newsjournal of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, and Marv Knox of Baptist Press.)



## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

### Aunt Lura Earl

Like I know that leaves will change to red and gold in October, I always knew that Aunt Lura Earl was there when I needed her. In my mind, her cozy kitchen sitting room was a lifetime constant, a place that never changed. Seldom was it empty of guests, whether they had come for a day, a night, or a week.

Always there was a pot of coffee perking or a coconut pie ready to be sliced or a fish supper in the planning stage. Or the telephone was ringing, and somebody wanted to report the latest community news or somebody wanted to talk about their troubles and knew that Aunt Lura Earl cared enough to sit and listen.

When I was three, I found a nickel under our house. Daddy was busy in the cotton field, but Aunt Lura Earl drove Mama to town to shop for dress materials. I went along and spent my money at McConnell's.

Her late son, Henry, was my childhood playmate. Her late husband, Zeddie, was my mother's only brother. Mama was still a child when her brother married. One night on the way to a basketball game in a two-horse wagon, she got her leg hung sideways in a wheel, and the wagon brake ground a hole in her shin. Aunt

Lura Earl was the one who came to change the bandages on her leg every day for weeks.

In more than six decades since then, Aunt Lura Earl has spent many hours of volunteer time taking care of the sick. Several years ago I wrote a column about this talent of hers. Patients of hers included both my grandmothers, and my sister, Betty, who when she was a child had a tough case of measles. Last spring, when Mama got sick, and Betty and I were far away, Aunt Lura Earl, at age 87, drove her to the hospital, and then on the telephone assured me that she was going to see that Mama was taken care of.

When I was three and my Grandpa Allen died, it was Aunt Lura Earl who held me up in her arms so I could see Grandpa in his casket. I asked her where his feet were.

Ever since Daddy's death in 1971, she had been a friend and encourager to Mama, someone to lean on when needed. Hardly a day passed that she did not call to ask how she was or to pass along current news tidbits. When tornado-type weather threatened, Mama often spent the night with her.

Aunt Lura Earl has been a sort of hub-of-the wheel for all her family —

husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the larger families of sisters and brothers and nieces and nephews (besides, I don't know how many others in various places.)

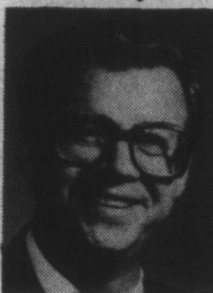
She loved people and always wanted to be cooking and entertaining for someone. In mid-September, this year, when she didn't feel at all well, she baked a fruit custard and an apple dapple cake and brought them to Mama's house when she heard Betty and W.D. and I were coming to visit — because she "wanted to do something to help." In her youth she liked to fish; she never seemed to tire of talking to W.D. about fishing.

Unless she were sick, she didn't miss church at County Line. The last time I saw her there, in September, she hugged me tight and said, "I love you!"

I had told her that many times, and I hope she knew how much. And now her kitchen is empty. She died on October 9, a little over a year after Uncle Zeddie's death. I heard her sister, Gladys, say, "What in the world will we do without Lu'rearl? I reckon we'll just have to learn to do without, won't we?"

## Ruschlikon elects Hopper president

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — John David Hopper, a Southern Baptist missionary in Europe for more than



Hopper

20 years, has been elected president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The seminary's executive board unanimously nominated Hopper, and the recommendation was approved by the European Baptist Federation Council Oct. 2. The Federation encompasses representatives of Baptist unions, or conventions, in 22 European countries. Hopper's election was affirmed by the Europe, Middle East, and North Africa Committee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 12 and information shared with all trustees Oct. 14.

Later in the meeting, a Foreign Mission Board trustee from Thousand Oaks, Calif., Ron E. Wilson, called for an executive session of the FMB to discuss the action.

But after a mid-morning break, in which Wilson received information from board President R. Keith Parks, Wilson returned to the microphone to say he understood better what the board was being asked to do in approving the new seminary president and there was no need for the executive session.

Wilson added he would meet with the board's Europe, Middle East and North Africa committee in December

to get further information about the seminary.

In Europe, the Federation vote was not unanimous, reflecting "the desire of some members to see a European elected to the post," according to Stanley Crabb, director of the European Baptist Press Service. No one, however, spoke negatively of Hopper, Crabb said.

Hopper, 53, has been a Vienna-based fraternal representative to Eastern European Baptists the past 11 years. After his appointment as a missionary in 1965, the New Orleans native taught practical theology at Ruschlikon for four years and then taught and did research at a Baptist seminary in Yugoslavia for four years.

The seminary, which was founded in 1949, now has 65 students from six continents. Its new Institute of World Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth was launched earlier this year, directed by Earl Martin, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Africa and missions professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Hopper is fluent in eight languages. He holds master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees in church history from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He earlier graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. Prior to entering missions, he was a pastor in Euless, Texas, and Long Beach, Calif.

## State WMU will be restructured during centennial year, 1988

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union will be restructured effective March 15, 1988, at the conclusion of the Centennial Annual Meeting.

Highlighting the restructuring is moving from 15 districts to nine areas for promotional purposes. This change will provide for uniformity of division of the state by all departments and programs of work at the Baptist Building.

The new WMU state executive board will include president, secretary, an area coordinator, and an associate area coordinator in each of the nine areas, and 10 members-at-large, for a total of 30 members.

Area coordinators and associate

area coordinators will be nominated by associational WMU directors in the various areas. Area coordinators will nominate the president and secretary. All officers — president, secretary, area coordinators, area associate coordinators, and members-at-large will be elected at the annual meeting at Colonial Heights Church March 14-15, 1988.

Members-at-large will fill positions which are new to Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board. These 10 women, who will be selected from all geographic regions in the state, will serve one; two; or three-year terms as requested, depending on the expertise of the person and

need during a particular emphasis.

Members-at-large are to be women who are WMU members in any Mississippi Baptist Convention church, and are to be recommended by any WMU members in any Mississippi Baptist Convention church, and are to be recommended by any WMU member in the state. Forms for nomination are available in the state WMU office. Nominations must be received in the state WMU office no later than Dec. 1. The state WMU president, in consultation with the executive director, will recommend members-at-large to the annual meeting for election from among the nominations received.

## Messengers may park on fairgrounds

Arrangements have been made for messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in Jackson, Nov. 9-11, to park at the fairgrounds.

Extremely limited parking is the situation near the site of the convention, First Baptist Church, because of construction work there.

Messengers should park just inside

the fairgrounds entrance on Jefferson Street. Shuttle buses will be available at all sessions.

Additionally, the Jackson Chief of Police has informed Earl Kelly, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, that parking tickets for parking too long will be forgiven during the convention. The

tickets must be turned in to the convention secretary for handling.

Said Kelly, "We wish to thank the officials responsible for the fairgrounds and the Jackson Chief of Police for help in at least partially relieving our parking problem. We also thank the messengers, in advance, for their cooperation in using the designated parking areas."

## Mission work in Cuba is transferred to FMB

By Leisa Hammett-Goad

ATLANTA (BP) — In its October meeting, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board directors voted to transfer responsibility for relationships between the Southern Baptist Convention and Baptist Convention of Western Cuba to the Foreign Mission Board.

Both Foreign and Home Mission Board administration have agreed the transfer will benefit the work of Cuban Southern Baptists. The FMB directors will vote on the the transfer in their Oct. 14 board meeting.

Baptist work in Cuba began in the late 1890s when Alberto J. Diaz, a soldier during the 10-year war in Eastern Cuba, jumped ship during an ambush.

He was picked up by a ship and sailed to America where he was given a Bible and became a Christian.

He returned to Cuba and, with the help of home missionary W.F. Wood, established the first Cuban Baptist church.

Before becoming the first superintendent of Cuban missions, Wood worked with Cuban refugees in Florida. He convinced the Southern Baptist Convention that they must

take the gospel message to Cuba. The SBC decided that the Home Mission Board would initiate the work.

Cuban Southern Baptists, said Oscar Romo, HMB language missions director, have continued to grow in numbers despite massive immigration from Cuba. Throughout history, Cuban Southern Baptist work has flourished despite such obstacles, including the Spanish American War (1895-1898) — when all pastors were expelled — and the Castro revolution.

Since Southern Baptist missionaries left Cuba, the HMB continued to work with the Cuban convention by supplying building materials, literature, and training and by maintaining relationships through the Baptist World Alliance.

With the transfer, the FMB can better supply literature for the Cuban convention, because of its international focus, said Romo.

In 1959, the SBC recommended a gradual transfer of relationships with the Cuban Convention from the HMB to the FMB.

Leisa Hammett-Goad writes for the HMB.



# SCRAPBOOK

Thursday, October 29, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



## Needle and thread

Be the needle to my thread  
That I may follow Thee,  
Pull the stitches smooth and firm  
And make them tangle-free.

Guide each strand of gold and grey  
Through fabric coarse or fine,  
Leading past mistakes and flaws,  
Fashion the perfect line.

Hold secure my raveled thread  
Of lost and broken way,  
Draw me near, then I'll complete  
Your pattern for the day.

—Mrs. D. F. Crowe  
Greenville

## Morning

I awake with the morning  
As it lazily weaves its way  
Across the newness of the day.  
I behold the beauty of the earth,  
Warmly caressed by the sun's rays.  
Not yesterday nor tomorrow —  
God has given me this day.  
Birds sing, spider webs glisten  
Against the morning dew.  
Colors seem so vivid,  
As I behold them all anew.  
In the coolness of the morning,  
My God, there's only me and you.

—Carrie F. Walters  
Bethlehem Church  
Laurel

## Searching

The mood of the moon was autumn,  
green-bronzed in Mississippi.  
Many errant winds blew from the bottom  
of strange waters near Pascagoula  
and awoke the heart of a girl named Beulah.

Her eyes were intensely brown  
and she still wore her summer tan.  
Thin-veiled, her smile was burdened profound  
for a world with no anchor but man.  
Then she found Jesus had answered her need  
and her spirit grew strong to lead.

How gentle, how sweet is the heart of God  
gathering the needy to him,  
teaching young souls to swim  
in the spirit to him,  
forever through Jesus to him.

—Violet Tackett, McComb

## I touched the hand of God

I helped a friend in mourning  
To bear her heavy load;  
I helped a child, whose pet was killed  
Along a busy road.  
A kind word, spoken softly  
A smile, a friendly nod,  
Little things that made me feel  
I'd touched the hand of God!

—Ruth Norsworthy Cramer  
State Line

## Halloween

Halloween can only be beautiful  
To those in the sight of God  
Who praise him for all things dutiful,  
Like scarecrows on the sod  
That frighten away blackbirds.

Who praise him for Halloween colors  
Of oranges and black;  
And for the moon man has conquered;  
And those who are not slack,  
To thank him for orange pumpkins.

Those who thank him for black kittens,  
The treat of brooms to sweep clean  
And are aware of spiritual origin and tricks  
That are attached to Halloween.

—Sarah Peugh  
Aberdeen

## You must see yourself

Look to the future, Who? What? Me?  
I don't know. What am I supposed to see?  
You, you must see yourself succeed,  
You, your dreams place into action.  
All is yours to gain, with inner satisfaction.

—Romy Case  
Brookhaven

There are two times in a man's life  
when he should not speculate: when  
he can't afford it, and when he can. —  
Mark Twain, Pudd'nhead Wilson's  
Calendar

Nothing in education is so  
astonishing as the amount of ig-  
norance it accumulates in the form of  
inert facts — Henry Adams, The  
Education of Henry Adams

## Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

### Baptist Conventions

Editor:

It was somewhat contradictory to read the Baptist Record this past week (Oct. 8 issue) and read in the editorial "The Baker Episode" the sad commentary of what some of our Southern Baptists have become. Then to read the lesson commentary of the Life and Work Sunday School Lesson. I'm afraid that many have little to do but decide how others must believe (the way they do) and sit in judgment if it varies from theirs.

Quite frankly, I question — not judge — but question — that kind of Christianity. It appears to me that Larry Baker believes like Paul preaches in Gal. 3. I support his position on abortion and more, his position on women in ministry, particularly his statement that "he feels God calls women just as He does men." In fact, I support that statement so strongly that I have considered leaving the Southern Baptist denomination (since the vote several years ago) after 40 some years. I believe Gal. 3 that God truly sees no difference between male and female and that we are as one in Christ. How dare we say a woman can teach Sunday School, Training Union,

GA's, Vacation Bible School, or go to the wilds of Africa; but she can't enter the pulpit and preach a sermon. Many of them would do a better job at it than men, and they would be more sensitive to the needs of the flock.

Let those 15 who voted against Larry Baker study their Sunday School lesson for Oct. 11.

We don't deserve Larry Baker. I wouldn't be surprised if he decided that, too, and resigned. Do these people really believe that God will not hold them accountable for all the people lost to his cause because of the loss of confidence in Christianity due to the disagreements, underhandedness, and unchristian methods used in this particular instance? I am almost ashamed to be a Baptist myself at times, and we're all getting tired of being put in the same class with those troublemakers.

Ada Reid  
Long Beach

### Missions emphasis

Editor:

Thank you for the fine article on Missionary Paul Thibodeaux and family in a recent issue. I too have

benefited from the trust fund set up by Mantee Baptist Church for mission efforts. The assistance given me by the late Alonzo Skelton and Mantee Baptist Church has been invaluable to my ministry. My trips to the Philippines and Nigeria have certainly broadened my horizons as far as missions are concerned. There is no way that I could ever adequately express my appreciation to this fine church and to the late Alonzo Skelton.

Every church should be blessed to have at some time a leader of Mr. Skelton's calibre, and it would behoove every church to set up a fund of this nature. Because of the vision of Mantee Baptist Church, and its current pastor, Dr. Terry Williams, my latest trip into Nigeria in January was made possible. Many precious souls came to know Jesus, and many new churches were started. Praise the Lord for the vision of this church and its people.

Bobby Williamson, pastor  
Park Place Church  
Brandon

### Disgusted by flap

Editor:

I am disgusted by the flap over the inerrancy of the Scripture. Anyone who has seriously studied the Scripture knows there is no perfectly flawless translation in the hands of

the living today. I doubt the veracity of the person who claims there is. To the inerrants I say compare:

1 Kings 4:26 with 2 Chron. 9:25  
2 Kings 8:26 with 2 Chron. 22:2  
2 Kings 24:8 with 2 Chron. 36:9  
2 Kings 24:17 with 2 Chron. 36:10  
Acts 9:7 with Acts 22:9

This list is not exhaustive. Many passages that seem to conflict are too ambiguous to interpret with certainty.

I am not attacking the Bible. I have several translations which I study religiously. I love the Word. But I agree with the article, "My Bible is True," written by Dr. Duke K. McCall and published in the July 16, 1975 issue of the Baptist Record, in which he says that the substance of the Bible is true but none of our translations are perfect.

Ernest Faulkner  
Vicksburg

### Attracting "outsiders"

Editor:

This is a plea for some kind of open letter to "out of fellowship" church members.

We have more members around our church who never come to church than members who do. I am sure lots of churches have a similar situation. We have visited them so much that they know what to expect when they see us coming. They give the same old answers.

We send a copy of the Record to

each family each week... hoping that maybe something they read... if they will... might influence them for the better. It may be the only Christian article entering their home. Some probably never even look at it... maybe they use it to line the bird cage, etc.

I'm just wondering if a real "catchy" headline or a letter printed in a color might attract the attention of some of these people? Like: "Could This Be You?"... or "Hey, Out There!"... or "How Long Has It Been Since You Visited Your Father's House?"

An article each week probably would not be a waste of time or space. Please give this some thought and prayer.

Charlotte G. Twilley  
Church Secretary  
Arkabutla Church  
Arkabutla

### A better way

Editor:

The problem-solving technique recently demonstrated by our new Public Affairs Committee reminds me of the pre-adolescent who said, "if you won't play my way, I'll take my ball and go home." In your Oct. 15 Second Front Page article, Les Csorba III indicates that the P.A.C. made

(Continued on page 12)



# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## GEOGRAFUN: (For Young Readers) Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



### Map Quiz

Can you identify these geographical areas?

1. This continent contains the Sahara Desert and the Nile and Congo Rivers.
2. This is the largest continent.
3. Most Americans trace their family lines back to this continent.
4. Most people who live on this continent speak Spanish or Portuguese.
5. This is sometimes called the "island continent."
6. This continent contains the U.S., Canada, and Central America.
- 6a. This far northern state was admitted to the Union in 1959.
7. These islands became the 50th state of the U.S. in 1959.

#### Answers

1. Africa
2. Asia
3. Europe
4. South America
5. Australia
6. North America
- 6a. Alaska
7. Hawaiian Islands

### Pen Pal Club

Anyone, ages 6 through 12, who wishes to meet a Pen Pal through the Baptist Record may do that by sending name, address, age, and name of church. Names will be listed monthly on the Children's Page.

Hi, I would like to have a pen pal. My name is in the paper. Is it OK if I have a girl, age 11? Thank you. I go to First Baptist Church, Potts Camp. Tabatha King (age 11)  
Rt. 1, Box 157A  
Potts Camp, MS 38659

Note to Tabatha and all the others who write to the Pen Pal Club: You need to choose a name and write to that person. The Baptist Record does not match the pen pals. Note to Tabatha: The next two names are girls, age 11. Maybe one of them will write to you. If they do not, then you could write to one of them first.

Julie Carr, age 11  
Route 1, Box 198  
Monticello, MS 39654

Tiffany Knight, age 11  
Route 1, Box 300-14  
Meridian, MS 39301  
(South Side Baptist Church, Meridian)

Brookley Knight, age 7  
Rt. 1, Box 300-14  
Meridian, MS 39301  
(Southside, Meridian)

Kristi Hawkins, 9  
22505 Meaut Road  
Pass Christian, MS 39571  
(North Long Beach Church)

Shannon Bolden, age 6  
22543 Meaut Road  
Pass Christian, MS 39571

Derek Bolden, age 7½  
22543 Meaut Road  
Pass Christian, MS 39571

To my girl pen pal: I am almost 8 years old. My birthday is Oct. 30, 1979. I live at Rt. 1, Box 76-A, Carthage, Mississippi, and I go to church at Freeny Baptist. I am in the third grade at Leake Academy. My teacher is Mrs. Judy Fleming.

Love,  
Amy Michele Lum

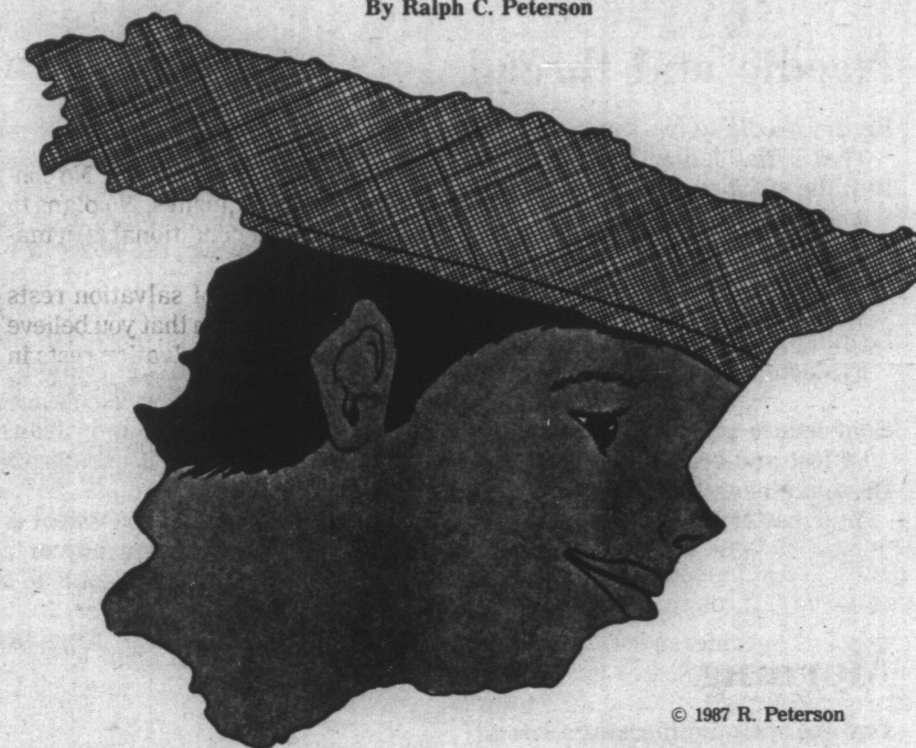
The following are in Virginia Dixon's Sunday School class at Calvary Baptist Church, Silver Creek. They would like to join the Pen Pal Club. They are in grades 3 and 4:

Scott Smith, 10  
P. O. Box 285  
Silver Creek, MS 39663

Daniel Holloway, 9  
Rt. 2, Box 702  
Silver Creek, MS 39663

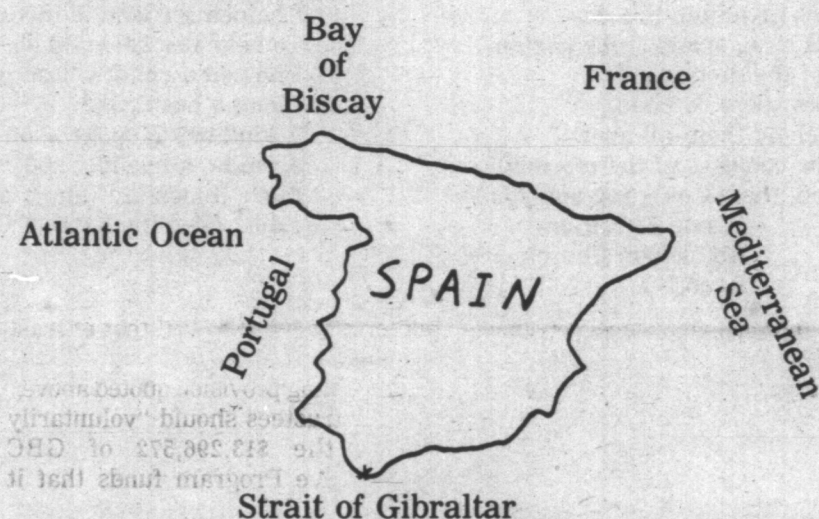
Denny Hartzog, 9  
Rt. 2, Box 698  
Silver Creek, MS 39663

Ryan Myres, 9  
Rt. 2, Box 698  
Silver Creek, MS 39663



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Can you imagine that the map of Spain looks like a Spanish lad? — Perhaps like one of the sailors who discovered the New World? Color the picture.



Brad Polk, 9  
P. O. Box 53  
Silver Creek, MS 39663

Vic Barkley, 9  
Rt. 2, Box 687  
Silver Creek, MS 39663

Timothy Butler, 9  
Rt. 2, Box 588  
Silver Creek, MS 39663

Amy Fortenberry, 9  
Rt. 2, Box 430A  
Silver Creek, MS 39663

Mindy Herrington, 9  
Rt. 2, Box 663  
Silver Creek, MS 39663

Nichole Martin, 9  
P. O. Box 68  
Silver Creek, MS 39663

Wendy Guillot, 9  
606 McDonald Drive, Apt. 1-3  
Clinton, MS 39056  
Age 12  
Midway Church, Jackson

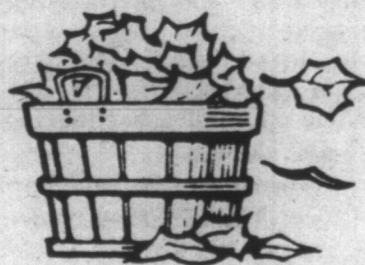
Leigh Hankins  
Rt. 1, Box 418  
Waynesboro, MS 39367  
Age 12  
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

Frances Johnson  
Rt. 3, Box 144  
Amory, MS 38821  
Age 9  
Trinity (Monroe)

Jennifer Stephens  
Rt. 1, Box 103  
Amory, MS 38821  
Age 11  
Trinity (Monroe)

Kimberly Stephens  
Rt. 1, Box 103  
Amory, MS 38821  
Age 8  
Trinity (Monroe)

Candance Jones  
Rt. 1, Box 265  
Greenwood Springs, MS 38848  
Age 7  
Trinity (Monroe)





# Lee Roberts' "open letter" challenges Mercer trustees

By Jack U. Harwell

ATLANTA (BP) — Mercer University trustees have been called on to deal with what their president has called "the most serious challenge ever brought forward to the relationship between Mercer and Georgia Baptists."

R. Kirby Godsey made that assessment at a press conference at Mercer in Atlanta Oct. 12, two days after he received a 16-page document from Lee Roberts, Georgia layman at Eastside Church, Marietta. Roberts, a mortgage banker, was chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Boards in 1986.

The press conference was the first of six held by Godsey and other Mercer officials to state publicly their intentions to challenge Roberts' charges.

On Oct. 9 Roberts mailed a 16-page "open letter" to about 6,000 persons in Georgia. He said he mailed to every pastor in the Georgia Baptist Convention; to all Mercer trustees and president's council members; to all Georgia parents of Mercer students; and to "other denominational leaders."

The document details a long list of charges against Godsey and Mercer, summarized in an introductory paragraph of Roberts' booklet:

"Many Georgia Baptists have become increasingly concerned about what has come to light at Mercer University. Matters such as heresies being printed by Mercer University Press; hard liquor being served at official Mercer functions; books containing deplorably filthy language being published and recommended to us by Mercer University Press; encouraging safe sex outside of marriage for Mercer students; the publication of lewd cartoons in the school paper; the publication of pornography in the school paper; widespread student drunkenness; the encouragement to purchase rock music albums by homosexual performers and satan worshippers; and many other critical and disturbing issues that will be discussed later in this letter."

Roberts' letter details four categories of "problems" at Mercer saying "there is a common thread that ties them all together." The four categories he itemized are spiritual convictions of R. Kirby Godsey; the spiritual climate at Mercer University; the trustees at Mercer; and "possible solutions to the problems at Mercer."

In regard to Godsey's spiritual convictions, Roberts lists 18 separate statements from a group of three speeches Godsey delivered last January at Houston Baptist University on the theme of Christian understanding of salvation. He also included the complete transcript of the three lectures at the end of his letter to "prevent Dr. Godsey from denying the statements and/or claiming they are taken out of context," Roberts wrote.

The 18 quotes included such statements as these: "Accepting Jesus is not the first basis of salvation.

Jesus came to say that we are saved. We are forgiven. We are loved. No conditions. No prerequisites. No plans to follow. It is not a conditional affirmation."

Also, "The hope of salvation rests not in the affirmation that you believe in God. The hope of salvation rests in the affirmation that God believes in you."

Also, "Jesus did not come to tell you and me how to be saved but to let us know that we live in the arms of God's grace."

Roberts' letter said he had met with Godsey on Sept. 11 with "others present as witness to that meeting."

Roberts wrote in his open letter: "During the course of that meeting I asked Dr. Godsey if he could with all honesty say these words: 'Jesus died for my sins.' Dr. Godsey informed me that at that time he did not and could not use those words. Dr. Godsey also confirmed to us he had written the lectures on salvation and that was what he believes."

The Marietta layman then quoted from a document prepared by Georgia Baptist leaders in the 1960s which declared that "only Christians should be in the administrative and teaching positions" at Georgia Baptist schools.

Roberts claims that "since neither Mercer trustees nor Dr. Godsey bothered to tell the GBC that at least the president did not comply with the long standing provision quoted above," Mercer trustees should "voluntarily return the \$13,296,572 of GBC Cooperative Program funds that it has received during the eight years that Dr. Godsey has been president."

To the spiritual climate at Mercer, Roberts' letter included clippings taken from Playboy Magazine showing two Mercer coeds in "total frontal nudity."

It also included a photocopy of condom ads reproduced in the Mercer student newspaper; a long list of "R" rated movies he said were shown on Mercer's campus; "lewdness and lasciviousness" printed in the Mercer Cluster (the student newspaper); charges of "widespread drunkenness on Mercer's campus; and several quotes from books published by Mercer University Press.

To the issue of trustees at Mercer, Roberts said Mercer is "the only GBC-related agency or institution that does not have its trustees freely nominated by the GBC nominating committee."

According to the Mercer charter, Mercer's trustees, alumni, and administration nominate three persons for each vacancy on the board of trustees. The GBC nominating committee could choose one of those three or go back to Mercer for more names.

Roberts wrote, "I have personally heard strong rumors that five motions/resolutions might be presented to the convention in Savannah in November." The GBC meets at Savannah's Civic Center Nov. 9-11.

These five "possible" motions listed by Roberts were to require at least 50 percent, but not more than 55 percent of Mercer trustees be Baptist pastors; a motion to reduce GBC contributions

to Mercer to \$1 per year until Mercer allows the GBC nominating committee to "freely nominate" trustees.

Also a motion to "break all relationships with Mercer and prohibit Mercer from calling itself a Baptist affiliated university; a resolution asking for immediate resignations of all Mercer trustees; and a motion requiring individual trustees to refund to the convention "the entire amount of money given to Mercer by the GBC during the term of the individual trustees."

At Godsey's first press conference held at Mercer University Atlanta, Godsey said, "We are stunned and disappointed at the vicious assault of Lee Roberts."

He has written with a hostility probably unparalleled in the history of the university."

Godsey said, "This dispute is not about theological fundamentalism. This dispute is about political fundamentalism, the attempt to enforce every person and every institution to adhere to a particular set of doctrines and nothing else. That requirement is contrary to the very essence of the established university and to the heart and soul of Baptists."

Godsey continued: "Mr. Roberts has only one goal — control of Mercer. He wants to control election of trustees so he can control what is taught, control selection of faculty who teach, textbooks they use, and books they will publish."

The Mercer president said: "On four issues we will not compromise. A — We will not compromise the authority of trustees for government of the university. B — We will not compromise academic integrity of the university. Free inquiry and academic freedom must not be abridged. C — We will not compromise the means by which trustees are elected. D — We will not compromise our commitment to religious freedom because the loss of that commitment would turn Mercer into something other than the genuinely Baptist university."

Godsey also said at that press conference, "We are a Baptist university and expect to continue to be, but that does not mean total control by the convention. We are engaged in cooperation and mutual respect. I hope the convention will not intervene in election of trustees or withdraw financial support. We have worked cooperatively for 155 years."

He added, "I view Mr. Roberts' effort as the most serious challenge ever brought forward to the relationship between Mercer and Georgia Baptists."

He said: "The process of trustee election cannot be changed unless the process is changed by the board of trustees... I estimate our board will be unwilling to change this charter."

Trustee chairman Bob Steed, an Atlanta lawyer, told news reporters "we have called a meeting of the board of trustees for Oct. 23 to contemplate and prepare for our response at the convention. I'll be surprised to find any support on the

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11



*My problem is my Mother*

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150

Dear POWERLINE:

My problem is with my mother. Sometimes I don't like to do my work, but I do it. Most times it is only half done. She yells at me for this, and I get mad everytime. Sometimes to me it seems that she is always making me work the hardest and do more things around the house.

My mother and father are divorced, and I feel that I understand my father, and would work out better living with him. I respect him, too.

I think my mother likes my sister best. My sister, who is a year younger than me, 15, is always teasing me. And I don't like her teasing me all the time.

POWERLINE Answers:

Teenagers must realize that from birth to about 25 the process of growth consists mainly of your will being broken by your parents. From the time you were an infant

it has gone on that way. You wanted what you wanted and your parents frequently wouldn't let you have it. So when you were a baby you cried out your frustrations.

But now you're 16 and you're still being blocked, but you express your frustrations in another way — by not doing, or not doing well, what you are told to do and by the universal method of complaining — and even feeling sorry for yourself.

Be sure and check yourself about wishing you could leave the home you have and go to another home which you do not have. In adolescence one of our chief devices is escapism. When there is something that is not pleasing, you mentally project yourself into another place where you think you would like it better. Face the likelihood that when you got there you would still be blocked and you'd want to run somewhere else.

## Foreign Board trustees vote \$167 million budget

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board voted a 1988 budget of \$167.8 million to back the work of 3,800 missionaries around the world.

The increase of \$2.6 million over the 1987 budget is one of the smallest in recent years, while the cost of supporting the growing number of missionaries claims a steadily rising share of the total.

The main reason for the small increase is the decision to freeze the 1987 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal at \$75 million. That's the same as last year's Lottie Moon goal, which was missed by more than \$5.5 million.

The Lottie Moon goal for 1987, if reached, will fund almost 45 percent of the total budget. Southern Baptists'

regular Cooperative Program giving through local churches will provide \$66 million, more than 39 percent of the total.

Almost \$102 million, more than 60 percent of the total budget, will support missionaries and their families in 111 countries. Another \$34.1 million will pay for overseas operating expenses, evangelism and church development programs, publication efforts, education, medical work, and hunger and relief ministries.

One bright spot in the overseas financial picture is an apparent stabilizing of the U.S. dollar's value after a two-year slide that put the squeeze on mission budgets in east Asia and Europe.

board for compromise."

On Oct. 13 Atlanta newspapers published reports that Atlanta's First Baptist Church has specified that none of its Cooperative Program funds be allowed to go to Mercer. Associate Pastor Fred Powell said the action was taken because "Dr. Godsey doesn't believe the Bible." Powell declined to say how much money is involved. Georgia Baptist Convention records, however, indicate the Atlanta congregation last year gave \$268,752 in undesignated and \$131,956 in designated contributions — a total of \$409,708 — through the Cooperative Program.

In two other related developments:

— First Church, Augusta, where the SBC was organized in 1845, and whose pastor, Charles Bugg is a Mercer trustee, adopted a resolution Oct. 14 pledging full support of Godsey and full financial support of Mercer;

— The Polk County Baptist Association, composed of 36 churches with a total membership of 12,775 near Cedartown, adopted a resolution condemning the "theological heresy" of Godsey and asking that formal heresy charges be filed against the Mercer president at the annual meeting in November.

Jack Harwell edits the Georgia Christian Index.



## Media library personnel will meet in November



Anderson

Freese

Operating a church media library takes a lot more than simply knowing the Dewey Decimal System. The other things needed will be discussed during the 16th annual Mississippi Baptist Church Media Library Workshop. The workshop will take place Nov. 13-14 at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson.

The workshop begins at 1 p.m., Nov. 13, and concludes at noon the next day. Registration begins at 11 a.m. the first day.

A banquet, which costs \$8 per person, will take place at 5:30, Friday evening. During the banquet the "Biblical Personal Profile" will be administered, according to Keith

Williams, consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Sunday School Department, which coordinates the event. The profile relates the individual personality to biblical characters to help understand the Bible and the individual.

Banquet reservations need to be made with Williams at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, by Nov. 6. Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The conference sessions include "Processing Media," "Basic Classification and Cataloging," "Advanced Classification and Cataloging," led by Jackie Anderson of the Sunday School Board; "Operating a Media Library," "Audiovisuals and BTN," and "Promotion," led by Barbara Freese of the Sunday School Board.

Selective conferences include "Visual Promotion and Library Emphasis Week," "Book Repair" (Bring books to repair); "Essentials for Desk Personnel," "The Library Assisting the Church Programs," "Resources for Selecting Media," and "How to Operate a Small Church Media Library."

## SBC agency execs to address Baptist Nursing Fellowship

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Two Southern Baptist agency executives will be among featured speakers at this year's Baptist Nursing Fellowship annual meeting Nov. 12-15.

Keith Parks, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president, and Lloyd Elder, Baptist Sunday School Board president, will each address those attending.

Meeting in conjunction with the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, nurses will hear Bible studies led by William Hendricks, a Southern Seminary professor. Anderson

Spickard, a Vanderbilt Medical School professor, and Mary Saunders, a registered nurse and missions volunteer, will also speak.

Entertainment for the Saturday evening banquet will be provided by Jerry Clower, Christian comedian from Yazoo City.

To register or request more information about the meeting or organizations, contact June Whitlow, Baptist Nursing Fellowship, Box C-10, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010, or Ashley McCaleb, Mississippi WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## A better way

(Continued from page 9)

"every attempt to cooperate" with the Baptist Joint Committee. Norris Sydnor's list of eight "requests," represents a spirit and methodology that is anything but cooperative. It is analogous to someone transferring their membership to a church and at the next business session demanding copies of the pastor's correspondence for the previous five years (plus seven other similar "requests"). The P.A.C.'s list says in no uncertain terms, "we don't trust you; we're going to investigate this operation further, and the B.J.C. must now deal with us (the new P.A.C.)." On the heels of a thorough Executive Committee evaluation of the B.J.C.P.A., and, subsequent report to the S.B.C. in St. Louis, the recent action taken by the P.A.C. represents a blatant power play. Southern Baptists would not stand for these tactics in the local church. Are they acceptable in convention affairs?

Sam Currin points to "accountability, as the central conflicts issue with

the B.J.C. But the central issue is not accountability, the Bible, theology, or political preferences — it is control. Theology, politics, and the Bible are battlefields and buzzwords used in our denominational struggle, but the basic issue is control. The P.A.C. has said, "if we don't get our way, we will take our money and go home." But there is a better solution and a better model.

The solution is not defunding — it is cooperation by faith. In Romans 14, Paul describes a mutual acceptance within the church that neutralizes "disputable matters." We can authentically maintain personal convictions and preferences without the condemnation and condescension of other viewpoints. That is the biblical model of corporate and cooperative faith that will move Southern Baptists toward purposeful coexistence. "Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of 'control'" (Rom. 14:20a). There is a better Baptist way!

Ken Massey  
Pastor, FBC Marks

## Freeny has 119% increase in Sunday School

Freeny Church of Leake Association entered the Sunday School Growth Spiral Program the last Sunday in February, beginning with an attendance of 74. By finding prospects and making contacts each week to their absentees and prospects, the attendance has continually increased. In the early part of the summer, the attendance had increased to a high of 65 percent. A Five Fabulous Sundays program was launched and special effort made to reach a goal of 150 in Sunday School on October 18, the last of the five Sundays. The attendance was 162 which was an increase above February of 119 percent.

The church recently made arrangements to purchase a building from First Church, Carthage, to be moved and made into more educational space.

Olin Sanders, Sunday School director, and Lee Hudson, pastor, both agree that it is the effort of all of the members of Freeny, who have allowed the Lord to use this program to motivate them to do the work that has been done that has caused this increase. "We believe that the Sunday School Spiral Program will work in any church where the people are willing to seek the Lord's leadership and work together to accomplish his will," said Hudson.

## Gabhart to deliver Spell Lectures

CLINTON — Herbert Conway Gabhart, chancellor of Belmont College in Nashville, will be the speaker for the annual Spell Lectureship at Mississippi College, Nov. 2-4, on campus.

Gabhart will be speaking in the student body, faculty, staff and general public during 10 a.m. chapel services on both Monday and Wednesday in the Chester E. Swor Auditorium.

"The Relevance of the Christian Faith in Today's World" is the theme for this year's lectureship, with the Monday service entitled "The Relevance of the Incomparable Christ" and the Wednesday topic to be "The Relevance of an Impossible Ideal."

In addition to the two chapel appearances, Gabhart will also be visiting classes in the Department of Bible and Philosophy and in other academic areas on Monday and Tuesday.

The Spell Lectureship is endowed by Dr. and Mrs. Howard E. Spell of Clinton.

## Off the Record

Carpenter Boss: "You hammer like lightning!"

Apprentice: "You mean I'm really that fast?"

Boss: "No. I mean you never strike twice in the same place!"

## Laurel Baptist women plan Day of Prayer celebration

The annual Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 2 p.m., at the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, located at 1041 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue in Laurel. A prayer observance each year around the world under the direction of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, the local event is co-sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union of the Jones County Baptist Association and the women of the National Baptist Convention in the Laurel area. These groups represent the participating conventions of the BWA in Jones County.

The Women's Department of the BWA, whose primary function is to provide a channel of fellowship for the Baptist women of 141 countries, has selected the 1987 program theme:

"God's Command: Be Peacemakers." Serving on the program planning committee are Dell Scoper, chairman; Alma Barnes, co-chairman; Marjorie Williams, music; Ettie Godard, arrangements; and Mildred Flowers, programs.

Bringing special greetings will be Mayor Sam Lindsey of Laurel; Richard Brogan of Jackson, president of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary; Alma Barnes, president, East Mississippi State Baptist Women's Auxiliary; Gail James, WMU director, Jones County Baptist Association, and John E. Gaddis, pastor of the host church.

The featured speaker is Miss Marjean Patterson, director of Woman's Missionary Union of Mississippi.

A reception will follow the program.

## Jerry Vardaman will speak on new evidence mentioning Jesus

Jerry Vardaman, professor of religion at Mississippi State University, Starkville, will speak at First Church, Starkville, Nov. 8 on a recent discovery which he says points to A.D. 15 as the year that Jesus began his earthly ministry.

R. Raymond Lloyd, pastor of the church, will preside. The meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Robert Wolverton, professor of foreign languages at Mississippi State University, will speak also on the new discovery.

Vardaman said, "We know of Jesus not only from the gospel records during the first two centuries of the Christian era, many non-Christian writers refer to him,

such as Josephus, Pliny the Younger, Tacitus, Suetonius, Apuleius, Epictetus, and Marcus Aurelius. The new evidence mentioning Jesus is non-Christian in origin and is clearly dated to A.D. 15 and immediately afterward (some of its dates A.D. 16, A.D. 38, etc.). In any case, the new evidence provides the earliest testimonies to Jesus and the Christian religion thus far encountered. What has now come to light agrees broadly with what is known about Jesus from the New Testament but places him earlier than traditional Christian interpretation. The new evidence points to A.D. 21 as the death year of Jesus."

The meeting is open to the public.

## Names in the News

Commission Road Church, Gulf Coast, has called Russell Beech as associate pastor.

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Robert Douglass, professor of music history at Southwestern Seminary here for 32 years, died Oct. 12 of cancer.

Douglass had retired from Southwestern as distinguished professor of musicology in July 1986. He and his wife, Elaine, had planned to devote their retirement years as short-term volunteer foreign missionaries.

George White was recently honored by Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, for serving as the church's Church

Training director since the church was started 21 years ago. John Jenkins, education director for Colonial Hills presented the award during a morning worship service. Tommy



White  
Vinson is pastor.



Pine Grove Church, Dumas, on Oct. 4, honored Earl Crawford for his years of service to the church. Crawford has retired from his position as church treasurer after having served for 43 years. Pictured, are Earl Crawford and Terry Lee Ledbetter, pastor of Pine Grove since February, 1986.

Mrs. Lawrence Bankston has retired as church secretary of Second Avenue Church, Laurel. She served for 21½ years. The church honored her with a recognition service during a morning worship, and presented her with a gift and a love offering.



# Church celebrates when toddler rescued

DALLAS (BP) — Thanksgiving came a month early for Harold McClure and the other members of Cotton Flat Church, Midland, Texas, as they celebrated the rescue of McClure's granddaughter, Jessica, from an abandoned well.

Strengthened by worldwide prayer support, volunteers worked around the clock Oct. 14 to Oct. 16 to free the 18-month-old toddler who was trapped 22 feet underground in an abandoned well. The 58-hour nightmare ended at about 8 p.m., Oct. 16, when Jessica was brought to the surface.

While Jessica's parents visited with

Vice President George Bush by the child's bedside at Midland Memorial Hospital Oct. 18, Harold McClure joined in a praise service at Cotton Flat Church.

Jessica's father, Chip, and her paternal grandparents are members of Cotton Flat. Her mother, Reba, is a Church of Christ member.

"Everyone involved is on a mountaintop right now. Everybody is giving God the credit," said Cotton Flat Pastor Ross Payne. He devoted his Sunday morning sermon to thanksgiving, and all of the hymns sung were praise songs.

# Lewis said McGhee wasn't championing women pastors

By Leisa Hammett-Goad

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis told employees in a chapel service two days following the death of Beth McGhee — a board director who died during the agency's October meeting after speaking against a motion explaining why they voted last year to deny ordained women pastoral aid — was not championing women pastors.

The Board's motion, on which Mrs. McGhee had commented before dying of a heart attack, included a portion of a 1984 convention resolution encouraging "the service of women in all aspects of church life and work other than pastoral functions and leadership roles entailing ordination."

The motion's final paragraph read, "We feel this action of our Board is commensurate with the faith and

practice of the majority of Baptist churches affiliated with our Southern Baptist Convention."

Mrs. McGhee, of Tucson, Ariz., addressed the motion and after pleading for peace, her last words were, "That last paragraph (of the Board's motion) is a divisive statement. I think it would be offensive to those of our constituency who do not interpret the Scriptures as the majority of the messengers and the Home Mission Board interprets the Scripture. In the interest of peace and bringing our people together in oneness, may we delete that last paragraph?" McGhee questioned.

Moments later, she collapsed in her seat. She was attended to by three physicians — all board directors — and taken to a nearby hospital where she was pronounced dead.

In chapel, Lewis said that instead of advocating women pastors and women's ordination, Mrs. McGhee was concerned that the board motion might be offensive. "She was for peace. She did not want us to do something that would cause further division and strife," Lewis explained. HMB Marketing Director Kitty Robertson, who knew Mrs. McGhee, told chapel attendees that Mrs. McGhee — having read the proposed motion — came to the board meeting concerned about peace. Mrs. Robertson said that although Mrs. McGhee is concerned about women in ministry, peace was the concern which moved her to speak.

Board member Dorothy Kilpatrick of Salinas, Calif., who roomed with Mrs. McGhee the night before her death, told Mrs. Robertson she and Mrs. McGhee had read Psalms and other scriptures and prayed about the issue until early morning.

Mrs. Robertson said she told her that Mrs. McGhee said she was leading her to speak on the motion, "not to argue with it, but to suggest for that board meeting to be the beginning of peaceful coexistence with people who differ."

Mrs. Kilpatrick told Mrs. Robertson that Mrs. McGhee went to bed, "feeling at peace, knowing that God wanted her to say something about peace."

North Long Beach Church, Long Beach, has called



Denham

Hardy Denham as pastor. He has been in Bible conference and evangelism work for five years. Prior to that he was pastor of First Church, Newton, for 15 years.

First, Biloxi, has called Tim Glaze as interim youth director. He is associate BSU director at Gulf Coast Junior College, Perkinston campus.

Diamondhead Church, Bay St. Louis, has called Peggy Groom to be minister of music.

Emmanuel Church, Gulf Coast, has called Frank Barnes as music director.

Commission Road Church, Gulf Coast, recently honored Louise Barrett for ten years service as church clerk.

James F. Brannon has accepted the pastorate of Highland Church, Meridian, effective Nov. 1.



Brannon

Brannon, a native of Laurel, is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His wife, the former Sandy Rhodes of Canton, also attended Mississippi College. They have two children, a daughter, Tracy, 16 years old and an 11 year old son, Jason.

The Brannons are going to Highland from Mississippi Avenue Baptist Church, Aurora, Colo., where he has been pastor for 10 years.

C. C. Randall, professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary and a former pastor of Highland Church, served as interim pastor.

Bill Herman has resigned Terry's Creek, Church, Magnolia and accepted the position of minister of music and education at Easthaven Church, Brookhaven. Herman graduated from William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He is a native of Petal. His wife is the former Barbara Pace of Sumrall. Their new address is: 515 Laird Circle, Brookhaven, MS 39601

Mrs. Rena Goss is the new childhood education director at Woolmarket Church.

Walter H. Frederick, formerly of Muscle Shoals Church, Muscle Shoals, Ala. has assumed the pastorate of Calvary Church, West Point.

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# Staff Changes

Heath Joiner, a sophomore ministerial student at Blue Mountain College, has joined the staff of Springdale Church in Ripley as minister of youth. Horace Thomas is pastor.

Mrs. Barbara Ellzey has served churches in various capacities and is the new church secretary at Second Avenue Church, Laurel.

Tom F. Rayburn is pastor.

Arnold L. Chavers, pastor of Crosby Church, Crosby, has resigned, effective Oct. 26, to accept the call as pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Reno, Nev. Chavers, graduate of Southern Seminary, and Mississippi College, has pastored in Crosby for the past three years. His new address is 10030 Humite Ln., Reno, NV 89506.

It should be remembered that the worm the early bird gets is an early worm.

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Effective: October 11, 1987

CT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	Joy Music Gloria	Country Crossroads	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Moody Science School Lesson
6	The Life Westbrook Hospital	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Moody Science School Lesson
7	First Love Sundell Estate Changed Love	Prime Times Sunshine Factory	Profiles Sunshine Factory	Word of Life Sunshine Factory	Praise Song Sunshine Factory	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	Sunshine Factory Set the Vision
8	ACTS Methodist Hour	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo League	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo League	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo League	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo League	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo League	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
9	Cover Alive Nelson Price	One in The Country Crossroads	Catch the Spirit Country Crossroads	The Life Gospel Church of America (I)	Joy of Life Perry Sanders In Concert	Christian Lifestyle Magazine Gospel Church of America (II)	Proclaim Theater
10	Insight Catch the Spirit	Our World	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	Bill Cosby
11	Great Churches of America (I)	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Plant Groom Jimmy Houston Outdoors
12	The Baptist Hour	Prime Times Sunshine Factory	Profiles Sunshine Factory	Word of Life Sunshine Factory	Praise Song Sunshine Factory	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	Outdoors Magazine Family Foundations
1	Sunday Selection	"	"	"	"	"	Moody Science School Lesson
2	"	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Day and Night Gospel Hour
3	Love Worth Finding Adrian Rovers	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Set the Vision
4	Joy Music One in The Country	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo League	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo League	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo League	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo League	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo League	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
5	Making Life Count Arthur Callandaro The Life	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Country Crossroads	Proclaim Theater
6	Insight ACTS Methodist Hour	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	Bill Cosby
7	Gloria	Profiles	Word of Life	Praise Song	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	Prime Times	Plant Groom Jimmy Houston Outdoors
8	Profiles Castle Hills Pulpit George Harris	Joy Music Truth Alive Ron Herrod	Catch the Spirit Joy of Life Perry Sanders	For These Times Robert White	Invitation to Life	Strength for Life Ken Hemphill	Great Churches of America (II)
9	The Baptist Evening Worship	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Moody Science School Lesson
10	Joy Music Gloria	Ecce Theatre	Ecce Theatre	Ecce Theatre	Ecce Theatre	Ecce Theatre	Day and Night Gospel Hour
11	The Life Sunshine Factory	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Country Crossroads	Sunshine Factory Set the Vision
12	"	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
1	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Proclaim Theater
2	ACTS Methodist Hour	Profiles	Word of Life COPE	Praise Song COPE	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	Prime Times COPE	Bill Cosby
3	Gloria	Ecce Theatre	Ecce Theatre	Ecce Theatre	Ecce Theatre	Ecce Theatre	Plant Groom Jimmy Houston Outdoors
4	Sunday Selection	"	"	"	"	"	Outdoors Magazine Family Foundations

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# Homecomings

White Oak, (Smith): Nov. 1, 145th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45; worship service, 11 a.m.; Jimmy Dukes, New Orleans Seminary, guest speaker; noon meal, fellowship hall; afternoon program, 1:15; James Edwards, pastor.

Jericho, Baldwin: annual homecoming-harvest festival; Nov. 1; 10 a.m., Sunday School, goal of 200; Adron Horne, former pastor, morning message, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; 2 p.m., Jimmy Russell, former pastor, afternoon message; offering will go to the building fund; Wayne Frederick, pastor.

# Revival Dates

Maybank, Hattiesburg: Nov. 1-6; services, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sunday, and 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; Bill Mitchell, pastor, Union, Seminary, evangelist; Dallas Rayborn, music director; Sunday, dinner in fellowship hall, no night service; Van C. Windham, pastor.



# Just for the Record



"Rainbows and Promises" was the theme for the Acteen Coronation and GA recognition service held recently at Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, Northwest Association. Thirty-four young ladies received recognition and awards

presented by Mrs. Gary Hayes, WMU director, Mrs. Randy Smith, GA director and Mrs. Mark Lemmon, Acteens director. Tommy Vinson is pastor.

## Dumas plans Bible Conference

Pine Grove Church, Dumas, will host a Bible Conference, Nov. 4-6, at 7 p.m. The personalities on program will be as follows: Wed., James Lewis; Thurs., Randy Isbell; Fri., Randy Bostick; and Bert Harper, Wed.-Fri. Terry Ledbetter is pastor.

## Missions Emphasis Week planned at Clarke

Missions Emphasis Week will be held on the Clarke College campus Nov. 3-5. Chapel services are scheduled each day at 11 a.m. in the Fine Arts Building.

Special guest for these services will be Mrs. Karl W. (Peggy) Wallace, Southern Baptist Missionary to Peru. Mrs. Wallace is a native of Magee and was appointed to foreign missions in April, 1978.



GAs of Big Creek Church, Wayne County had their annual "Christmas In August," a project in the surrounding community. They collected school supplies for the needy children in grades kindergarten through sixth. On Sept. 3, they presented these supplies to the principal, Jerry G. Nobles to be distributed to the needy throughout the school year.

GAs pictured are, Rachel Cochran, Matasha McLain, Renee Cochran, Rexanna Ferguson, Sierra Beard, Marie Adams, Deaine Reid, Vanessa Adams, Jennifer Mason, Brandye Shows, Melissa Childers, Carrie Hutto, and Sabrina Williams.

## Pleasant Hill to honor Tom Moak

Pleasant Hill Church, Lincoln County, will host a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall, Nov. 1, in honor of Tom Moak and his wife, Willa. The Moaks have served Pleasant Hill seven years directing the music ministry. Moak began his music ministry 38 years ago while a student when he served the Bogue Chitto Church at Bogue Chitto, and since that time his work has carried him to churches in Louisiana, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Beginning the first Sunday in November of 1980, he has developed one of the most outstanding music programs at Pleasant Hill of any rural church in Mississippi. He has served as director of music for Lincoln Association and the Lincoln Baptist Men.

In the summer of 1987 he led a music emphasis in First Southern Baptist Church, Sheridan, Wyoming.

## Off the Record

A mother and daughter were in the kitchen washing dishes while father and four-year-old Billy were in the next room working on a wood project. Suddenly, father and son heard a crash as a dish fell to the floor. "It was Mom," Billy said in a matter-of-fact manner. "How do you know?" his father asked. "Because," replied Billy, "Mom isn't saying anything."



Nineteen GAs of First Church, Greenwood, received badges, Sept. 30, during the Girls in Action Recognition Service. Al Finch, pastor, developed the theme, "Let There Be Light."

Girls awarded badges one: Holly Burns, Brandi Goodwin, Shari May, Melanie Minyard, Jennifer Moore, Casey Probus, and Victoria Kay Webb.

Badge two: Jenny Bates, Dawn Caldwell, Sharon Cheek, Bettina Fedruccia, Bryn Jackson, Patricia Tanksley and Ashley Whitten.

Badge four: Gina Garrison, Olivia Little and Beth Morgan.

Badge five: Lee Ann Johnson.

Badge six: Stephanie Cheek, Shari May, Jennifer Moore, and Bettina Fedruccia were unable to attend.

GA leaders for grades 1, 2, 3 include Mrs. Johnny Chism, Mrs. Dwane Daniels, and Mrs. Waters Hicks.

GA leaders for grades 4, 5, 6 are Mrs. John Harville, Mrs. George Garrison, and Mrs. Roger Wright.

Old Fashion Day will be held at Belen Church (Quitman County), Nov. 8.

Activities will begin with high attendance day in Sunday School at 10 a.m., followed by 11 a.m. worship hour. It will be a day of praise for the blessings of the harvest.

The old fashioned dinner will be served in the fellowship hall.

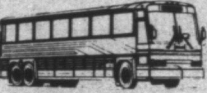
The afternoon program will begin at 1:30 with old hymn singing and message by a guest speaker.

Prizes will be awarded for the most old fashioned costume and most old fashioned covered dish.

Todd Bowen is pastor.

Baptist Women's "World Day of Prayer," will be held at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, Nov. 1, at 2 p.m.

The public is invited to attend and join in this time of praying for the missionaries and for the cause of missions around the world.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## The flood: "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord"

By Rex Yancey

Genesis 6:5-9, 13-19; 7:19

Chapter five contains a list of the descendants of Seth through eight generations. The majority of Seth's descendants lived long lives. Enoch



Yancey

was an exception to this rule. However, special emphasis is given to the quality of life that Enoch lived. Enoch walked with God, witnessed for God, and went home with God. What a great epitaph for a life lived for God.

John said in 1 John 5:19, "We know that we are of God and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." This verse could be translated, "We know there is a revolutionary split in the creation of God and we are either on one side or the other." From the time Cain killed Abel and Seth was born to Adam and Eve, it became obvious that there would be those who would walk with God and those who would live their lives in a selfish, evil way.

As the population of mankind increased, the evil intent of his heart spread over the world

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like cancer. Man's sin was more than an external act. His sin was internal. Even the imaginations of his mind were evil continually.

There are several opinions and theories concerning the marriage between the sons of God and the daughters of men. The theory that angels came down to earth and married ("took" is a legal term for marriage) is contrary to what other biblical passages teach about angels. It seems that the sons of God represented the descendants of Cain, while the daughters of men represented the descendants of Seth. The result of this marriage was that men renowned for their evil populated the face of the earth.

Verse 6 is an anthropomorphic expression attributing the feelings of man to God. God was concerned, grief-stricken, and displeased because of the people's sin. Because of his righteous nature, God had to judge the population for its wickedness. God was grieved in his heart that mankind, the objects of his love, had

turned away from him.

God's grace is emphasized in verse 8 as the writer indicated that while God saw the wickedness of the majority of the population, he was looking around for that person who walked in a different direction. God found such a person in Noah. Noah was right in his relationship with God. There was no essential element lacking in his life. He was well-rounded and mature. He wasn't perfect in a moral sense of the word, but he was the best God had at that time. God always uses the best that he has. (If we represent the best God has, how secure is our generation?) Noah was different in worship, marriage and conduct from the others in his generation.

There is hope in this passage of scripture, "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." By faith, Noah believed that God would judge the world, and he obeyed God in preparing a place of safety for himself and his family and the animals. God was going to make a covenant with Noah. Nothing like this had ever happened before.

Noah was a man of faith. It apparently had never rained before this time. The earth receiv-

ed its water from the dew of the ground (Gen. 2:6). However, Noah believed God and acted on his belief. God has dealt with man from the beginning on the basis of faith. How did he know that the boat would survive a flood even if he built it? He had faith in God.

In 7:19 the flood came as God had promised. It rained for forty days and forty nights. The water covered the mountain ranges. There was no place left where wicked people could escape the judgment of God.

The poet has said:

There is a time I know not when  
There is a place I know not where  
That marks the destiny of man  
to heaven or to despair.  
There is a line by us not seen  
That crosses every path  
'Tis the hidden boundary between  
God's mercy and his wrath.

God's mercy was found only in the ark which sheltered Noah and his family. One day God's wrath is going to be let loose on this world. Only those in the ark of safety (Jesus Christ) will be spared. Are you in the ark?

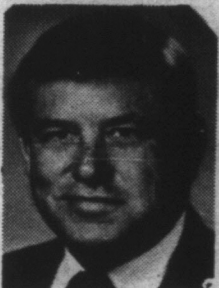
Rex Yancey is pastor, First, Quitman.

## Paul insists, "In Christ we are freed to love"

By Al Finch

Galatians 5:1-14

For the believer, maturity means living life in the fulness of love (1 Corinthians 13:10-13). We are saved by God's love and express life in



Finch

him by love. It is difficult for men to find the freedom to love as God loved. By nature we depend upon restraints or limitations to pattern our lives. But in Christ we are free to love.

Galatians 5:1-6 states a CONTRAST in the believer's life. There is liberty in Christ and bondage in the legal system of law. The Galatians, free in Christ, are being "entangled" or losing their freedom. Paul is encouraging them to retain their freedom.

The loss of freedom in Christ comes when one

### LIFE AND WORK

reverts to the demands of law or ceremony. Circumcision was the problem Paul faced, while we may have the same problem with baptism, church membership or some other outward religious ceremony. Those who believe in baptismal regeneration may change baptism for circumcision in the passage and find the value of baptism. Once there is a dependence on ceremony for salvation, "Christ is become of no effect." We fall from grace.

There are two spheres of life for Paul, law and grace. Grace is the higher sphere. When one returns to law, after he has found grace in Christ, he has fallen from one sphere to another. (This reference does not refute the doctrine of

the perseverance of the saints).

The solution to the fallen state is given in Galatians 5:5-6. By God's Spirit we have the "hope of righteousness." Ceremony, nor the lack of it, affects anything. Only Christ Jesus has the answer for man's salvation.

If there was stability for the Christians, ("ye did run well") there was a conflict existing (Galatians 5:7-12). Someone had been "hindering" the Galatian Christians. "He that troubleth you shall bear his judgement" indicates that there may have been a person responsible for the hindrance. Paul was clear about his feeling of judgement for the false teacher. If he teaches circumcision, let him be mutilated (Galatians 5:12).

The Galatian believers started out in the grace of God but had been drawn back into legalistic practices and patterns. Their freedom in Christ was destroyed when there was a

dependency on the ceremony of the law.

Now, what is the CONDUCT of the believer in grace (Galatians 5:13-14)? We are called in to liberty; all things are available and lawful. Yet this freedom is not license. One cannot in the name of Christian freedom forsake moral decency. Love never allows the misuse of moral absolutes. We are free to "by love serve one another." We are not free to do less. Railroad tracks do restrict freedom but more than that they give the train full mobility. It can travel but on track. There is no loss of freedom here. So the believer finds his freedom and limitation in love.

Paul insists that freedom from the law enables one to express that law fully (Galatians 5:14). Write the law in one statement: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." In Christ we are freed to love.

Al Finch is pastor, First, Greenwood.

## Dealing with dilemmas: it pays to go God's way

By Julian W. Fagan III

Genesis 30:25-31:55

A dilemma is a situation which requires a decision to be made between two equally undesirable choices. Jacob had run away from home and worked for 20 years for his uncle Laban.



Fagan

He was forced to leave home because of the deception he and his mother had carried out toward his father Isaac and his brother Esau. Now he had spent 20 years being deceived by Laban, and his choice was to stay in that environment or return to the land of his father. His situation approached a dilemma. Neither choice was ideal.

Consider first the reason for Jacob's predicament. Was it not his deception? He fled because of his trickery and spent 20 years being deceived by Laban. So often sin which we activate turns up to act against us later in life. Laban deceived Jacob in giving him Leah instead of Rachel and in changing his wages "ten times." Also notice how trickery continued to be a part of Jacob's lifestyle in the manner in which he oversaw the breeding of Laban's livestock and thereby acquired for himself a large herd. In the end of the story Rachel deceives Laban and

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Jacob concerning the theft of the household idols on which she sat and lied to her father. Once we learn how to sin, the tendency is prone to stay with us and influences those around us to the point that others learn from us how to do us in.

In spite of Jacob's wrongdoing, sympathy is felt for him. He worked hard, brought good things to Laban, and did not deserve the abuse he received. It was a bad situation. Division existed between the family of Laban and Jacob. There was also division between Jacob's wives. The situation was much like the one he left 20 years before. Amazing, is it not, that sin unconfessed and unremoved has a way of following us wherever we go. We can change towns, families, jobs, and still have the same mess from which we tried to run away.

In the midst of this mess, however, there is a loving and sovereign God who comes to Jacob and tells him to return to his homeland (Gen. 31:3). Jacob had already indicated to Laban (Gen. 30:26) that he wanted to go home, and now God was directing him to do so. The beauty of the Christian faith is our God who can give us direction in the midst of our messes and sinfulness. A lesson and a bright hope are written

for us in this story. We are not unlike Jacob. We too are sinners and have hope in a forgiving God who can lead us out of the messes into which we get ourselves.

Once God had given direction to Jacob, he had to determine how to leave. No easy way was available; but in order to follow God's will, Jacob had to make a plan to leave. Perhaps there is a guide for us in this passage in making the best of a bad situation. Jacob first had to determine what God would have him to do. That is always the first step for a believer. What God wants must be uppermost in our minds. God had a plan for Jacob. Jacob was not aware of how God was going to put it together and likely was not even consistently conscious that God was working that plan out in his life. To realize God's plan, Jacob must do what God asked. When the situations in which we find ourselves are like dilemmas, we must seek God's direction; he can see through the mess and knows what is best for us.

To be able to see the situation for what it is helps Jacob to know what to do. Jacob discerns that his father-in-law does not feel the same way about him (Gen. 31:2). He begins to see the situation for what it really is. Twenty years should be enough time for a fellow to realize that; however, some never do. When we can look objectively at a bad situation, we are better

able to hear God speak to us. Many believers need to open their eyes to the reality of the situations around them.

Once the reality hit home with Jacob, and he discovered God's plan, he had to develop a plan of his own to leave town. We could try to second guess him by saying he should have directly approached Laban and obtained his permission. That sounds "right," but Laban's hostility was only prevented by the intervention of God himself (Gen. 31:24). There are times we must do the best we can with what we have. We live in an imperfect world and oftentimes must choose between the lesser of the two evils. Here, Jacob chose to run. Regardless of how one might feel about the rightness of his choice, he did recognize and seize the opportune moment. God honored his choice to leave and gave him protection on the way.

Jacob at this point is not a model family man. His tendencies showed up in people around him and worked against him. We should learn from that. Nevertheless, Jacob sought to follow God when he spoke to him. Although Jacob was in a dilemma, God provided a way out. It was not without difficulty and hard decisions for Jacob, but it was for the best. God's way always is, even in the bad situations of life. It always pays to go God's way.

Julian Fagan is pastor, First, Pontotoc.



# Baptist Record

## SBC Christian Life Commission seeks legal ban of Dial A-Porn

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has joined other groups urging Congress to pass legislation that would ban "dial-a-porn" telephone numbers.

During Sept. 30 testimony before the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, a 1987 Southern Baptist Convention resolution denouncing dial-a-porn was entered into the record at the request of the CLC.

In Nashville, CLC Executive Director N. Larry Baker said his agency was "encouraged that no support was offered for the current state of dial-a-porn." He noted every witness who offered testimony during the one-day hearing, including the chief lobbyist of the American Civil Liberties Union,

"shares the opinion that something must be done to keep dial-a-porn out of the hands of America's youth."

Besides introducing the SBC resolution into the record of proceedings, the CLC joined itself to testimony offered by William D. Swindell, president and national director of Citizens for Decency Through Law, a Scottsdale, Ariz.-based group.

"Defense attorneys for this illicit industry readily admit that dial-a-porn numbers cannot be kept from children," he said. "They argue that it is the price we must pay to assure freedom of speech. But are they really concerned about the First Amendment? What is their real motivation? Money."

Swindell urged passage of the proposed law, H.R. 1786, that would

amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ban such services. Current law, enacted in 1983, permits access to dial-a-porn numbers for adults. The new law, if passed, would prohibit the numbers altogether.

Robert Helgesen, an executive with the New York Telephone Co., told the panel that in New York City alone 50 million to 60 million calls are made annually to dial-a-porn numbers. His company's net profit from the calls is \$7 million annually, he said. Asked by Rep. Dan Coats, R-Ind., if his company is comfortable with such profits, Helgesen answered, "No, we are not." Noting the \$7 million represents but a tiny fraction of the company's estimated \$700 million annual profit, he said he welcomes the proposed legislation.

## Book Reviews

SEPTEMBER MORNING by Mildred Tengbom (Brethren Press, 187 pp., paper) The middle years are a time of intense challenges — a time of anxiety, crisis, and continued growth. "September mornings" of midlife have terrific impact on the rest of people's lives. This book is a practical guide on how to make the middle years the best season of life. The author, a missionary to Singapore, writes in such a graphic and compelling way that it's almost impossible to put the book down, once begun.

For instance, the chapter titles make you want to read on (if you're middle aged, anyhow): Sensing a Nip in the Air; Oh Those Aching Bones; Early Frost: Disabilities; Driving on Rain-Slicked Roads: Tension; Fall's Foggy Days as Marriage Sags; School Begins: Steps that Lead Away from Home; The Last Harvest: Caring for Aging Parents; Trees that Stand Alone; Will We Have Enough Stored

Up for Winter?; Can I Learn to Ski and Skate at My Age?; Special Demands of Autumn and Winter; Keeping Green as Autumn Fades. Full of sound advice, it's good to keep for a reference book. Highly recommended reading. — AWM

HOW I ENROLLED 250,000 IN BIBLE STUDY. Land, Frank E., (Published by the author)

The author is a member of Riverside Baptist Church, Fort Myers, FL. He has served this church in various capacities. He is a licensed Florida real estate broker.

This is not a scholarly exegesis, a systematic discussion on theology, or even an analysis of the controversy in all convention; but it is a motivating, inspirational book all pastors, staff members, and Christians should read.

The book describes how the author's pastor (Andy Anderson) came to the conclusion if his church was going to

grow it would do so through the Sunday School and through an emphasis on enrollment. As the author says "In Sunday School, enrollment determines attendance. You cannot raise your attendance unless you raise your enrollment. It just works that way."

The book contains many stories and accounts of the author's travels with his pastor as they conduct many enrollment emphases in various churches. The book is filled with account after account of how so many churches experienced revival because of this "Action" emphasis.

Every church staff member should read this book. If you wish to purchase it send a check for \$7.95 (\$6.95 + \$1 postage and handling) to Frank E. Land, 3426 Fowler Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901.

A very inspirational book from one whom God has used to reach people for Bible study. — Reviewed by Greg Potts, Pastor of Providence Church, Meadville.

## Beautiful on the surface only

Are we a beautiful people on the surface only? More than 40 percent of America's people have no church affiliation. A conservative estimate suggests that more than 125 million people in the United States are unsaved. More than 500 countries in our nation are without a Southern Baptist witness.

Could things be worse? They already are. About 85 percent of the population of Washington and Oregon is non-Christian. As director of missions for the Puget Sound Baptist Association in the Seattle,

Washington, area, Dave Holden works with pastors of 76 Southern Baptist churches and missions, trying to reach the people of the northwest with the good news. Holden says that when someone with no religious background is converted to Christianity, that person is slow to assume church leadership roles.

These alarming statistics indicate that we are not winning our nation to Christ. Such figures emphasize the urgent need for a comprehensive program of missions

for our nation and the cooperation of our nearly 37,000 churches in prayer and financial support.

During Cooperative Program Month, Southern Baptists celebrate past achievements of Cooperative Program supported ministries and look forward to challenges of the world today. Encourage planned growth in Cooperative Program giving by your church so that the Home Mission Board will be able to increase its missionary force to 5,000.

## May I invite you into my search for a real Christian?

By Billie Buckley

I had to decide first of all what a real Christian was not. In my search I learned that real Christians are not joke materials, as many television talk show hosts would have you to believe. Neither are they unapproachable mortals, or even very religious. They will not be heard whining, "Put your money into my keeping" or "What are you going to do for me today?" They will not march around evaluating me according to their prejudices and standards. They don't shout a lot, but walk quietly through your life doing what my sixth grade student instructed me to do.

I was hurriedly checking papers on that particular day as I have done for 25 years. On some papers I put a check; on some I wrote OK; and on others I wrote the word "good." Danny had patiently waited his turn in line, knowing that he had correctly located each noun.

I simply said to him, "You got it, Danny. Go on and find the verbs now." He stood there until I impatiently said, "Move on, Danny. I've got to check Jalanda's paper."

Putting his paper back on my desk he instructed me, "Put some GOOD on my paper, Mrs. Buckley."

That's it! That's the secret of finding real functioning Christians. They will be found putting GOOD on our lives. They are private affirmers and not public religious entertainers. They don't spread all their time evaluating and manipulating us. They look for the good in us and affirm it. Personally, I don't need evaluators in my life. I know my faults and weaknesses. I need genuine affirmers whom I can trust and who can trust me.

This affirmation can be possible because a real Christian has been affirmed by the God of this universe. A real Christian did this when he established a relationship with God through his Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and his belief in him.

So what about my search for a real Christian? One day I found a person, who based on his love relationship with God, loved me and I knew for the first time the real meaning of "they were first called Christians in Antioch."

Billie Buckley (Mrs. Gerald) is a resident of Petal and wife of the pastor of Petal-Harvey Church.

## Black church establishes \$200,000 ABTS endowment

NASHVILLE — American Baptist Theological Seminary has received a \$200,000 pledge from First Baptist Church Capitol Hill in Nashville to establish and endow a Chair of Excellence.

The pledge, to be paid over a three-year period, will be matched by ABTS, a four-year black Bible college jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc., ABTS President Odel McGlothlin announced.

Last year the Southern Baptist Convention contributed \$263,000 to ABTS

while National Baptist churches and the college's alumni gave \$101,000.

Wallace Charles Smith, pastor of the endowing church, said his church wanted to assist ABTS in securing "the services of a first rate scholar who will help the school achieve the goal of excellence in education."

The church and school are tied together historically as three of the college's presidents also have been members at the church.

## Penn-South Jersey elects Williams

HARRISBURG, Pa. (BP) — Wallace A.C. Williams was unanimously elected executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey during a called meeting of the convention's executive board Sept. 19. He will assume the position Nov. 1.

Williams is pastor of the Madison (N.J.) Baptist Church and will be the fourth executive since the formation of the Pennsylvania-South Jersey convention in 1970.

Williams is a graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College, the University of Kentucky in Lexington, and Southern Seminary. Williams was president of the Baptist Convention of New York in 1978-1980.

Baptist Record

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